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More than a Magazine



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Huskies Illustrated Magazine, the original publication dedicated to Nebraska athletics, is in its 32nd year of publication. An annual subscription includes our annual football yearbook (pictured). Manage your subscription or subscribe at the link below:

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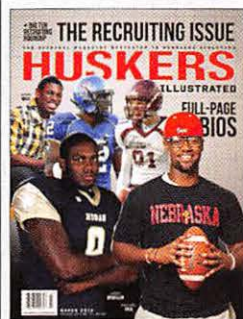
THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Heard could be moving to defense this spring

2011 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
SEPT. 3	CHATTANOOGA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 40-7
SEPT. 10	FRESNOSTATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	6:00P.M.	W, 42-29
SEPT. 17	WASHINGTON	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 51-38
SEPT. 24	@ WYOMING	LARAMIE, WYO.	6:30P.M.	W, 38-14
OCT. 1	@ WISCONSIN	MADISON, WIS.	7:00P.M.	L, 17-48
OCT. 8	OHIO STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7:00P.M.	W, 34-27
OCT. 22	@ MINNESOTA	MINNEAPOLIS	2:30P.M.	W, 41-14
OCT. 29	MICHIGAN STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11:00A.M.	W, 24-3
NOV. 5	NORTHWESTERN	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	L, 25-28
NOV. 12	@ PENN STATE	UNIVERSITY PARK, PA.	11:00A.M.	W, 17-14
NOV. 19	@ MICHIGAN	ANN ARBOR, MICH.	11:00A.M.	L, 17-45
NOV. 25	IOWA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11A.M.	W, 20-7
JAN. 2	VS. SOUTH CAROLINA	ORLANDO	NOON	L, 13-30



ON THE COVER

Nebraska's 2012 recruiting class may have been small in total numbers, but it's definitely not lacking in talent. A few of the talented athletes are featured on the cover: Back row, left to right: Avery Moss (photo by Rebecca S. Gratz/The Omaha World-Herald), Mohammed Seisay (Joe Murphy Photography) and Jordan Westerkamp (Jon Cunningham); Front row: Greg McMullen (Ed Suba Jr./Akron Beacon Journal) and Michael Rose (photo by Rebecca S. Gratz/The Omaha World-Herald).



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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 32, Issue 4/5, the Spring football recap will be mailed in mid April. Check for updates at huskiesillustrated.com.

RECRUITING COVERAGE

Taking recruiting coverage to new levels

IF YOU FOLLOW FOOTBALL RECRUITING, there has never been a better time to stay in touch with the latest commit, offer and Husker target.

Markets across the country have learned what Huskers Illustrated has known for a long time. Fans love recruiting season. Some fans may only read about the latest commit, while the recruitnik watches film on any kid with an offer.

Either way, the craze is nothing new. HuskerNation has demanded the latest recruiting information for years.

You might wonder how it all worked before the Internet and smart phones?

We got creative.

Can you believe Huskers Illustrated used to operate a 1-900 number for regular recruiting updates? I'm sure some of our loyal subscribers remember seeing those ads, if not calling the number themselves.

Thankfully, we no longer operate a 1-900 number. But we are still finding creative ways to keep you up to speed on recruiting and team news. Our latest information is available on your smart phone via the best mobile Husker news site available. Our social media channels have combined to reach over 20,000 followers every day.

As many of you know, last April we teamed up with a 247Sports.com to bring you the best recruiting information possible. In less than 12 months, our new website has developed a reputation for diligent recruiting and team coverage, as well as a loyal, vibrant online community.

I'm incredibly proud at what we've been



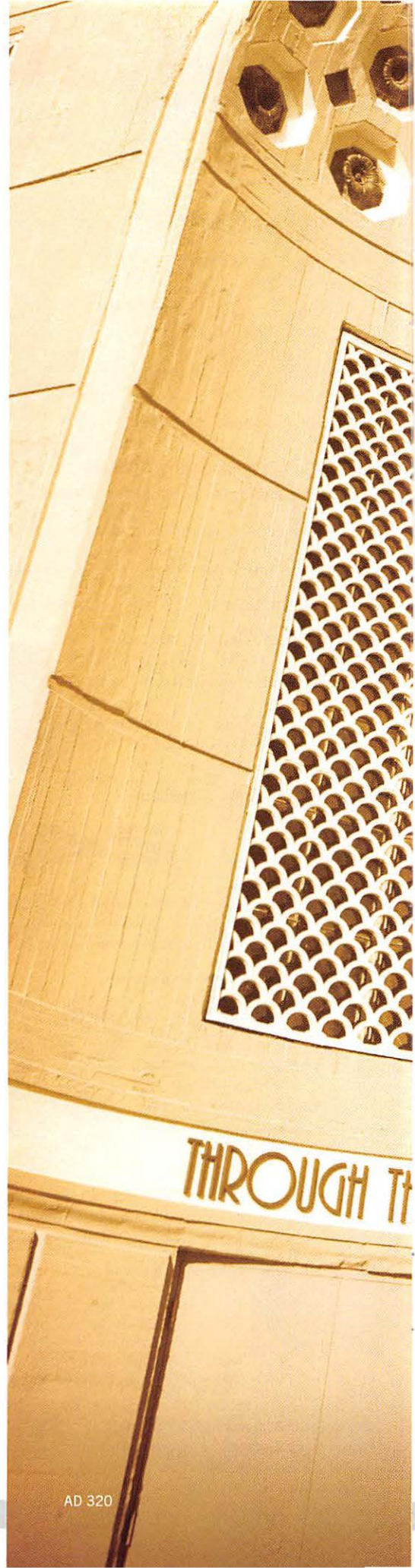
able to build, thanks to the efforts of writers Michael Bruntz, Mike Schaefer, Mike Babcock and the numerous individuals on the 247Sports network.

For those that have been associated with Huskers Illustrated for any part of the past 32 years, we hope the results are not a surprise. We are continually thankful you for your support. In an economy like this, we are especially aware of the demands for your dollar.

We also want you to know that while we strive to bring the latest news, we also strive to do it the right way -- to be accurate, diligent and responsible in our coverage. As much as recruiting coverage has changed, those most-affected are the athletes. They receive calls from coaches around the country and reporters from newspapers, tv stations, websites and now even bloggers. We definitely appreciate when they are generous with their time.

Our relationships with 247Sports.com has allowed us to assemble what we believe is one of the more complete recruiting editions in our history. We hope you enjoy it. And if you haven't checked out the new HuskersIllustrated.com, stop by and say hello. I am positive you'll come away impressed. You'll see that as usual, Nebraska fans are supporting a winner. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.





THESE GATES PASS THE GREATEST FANS IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL

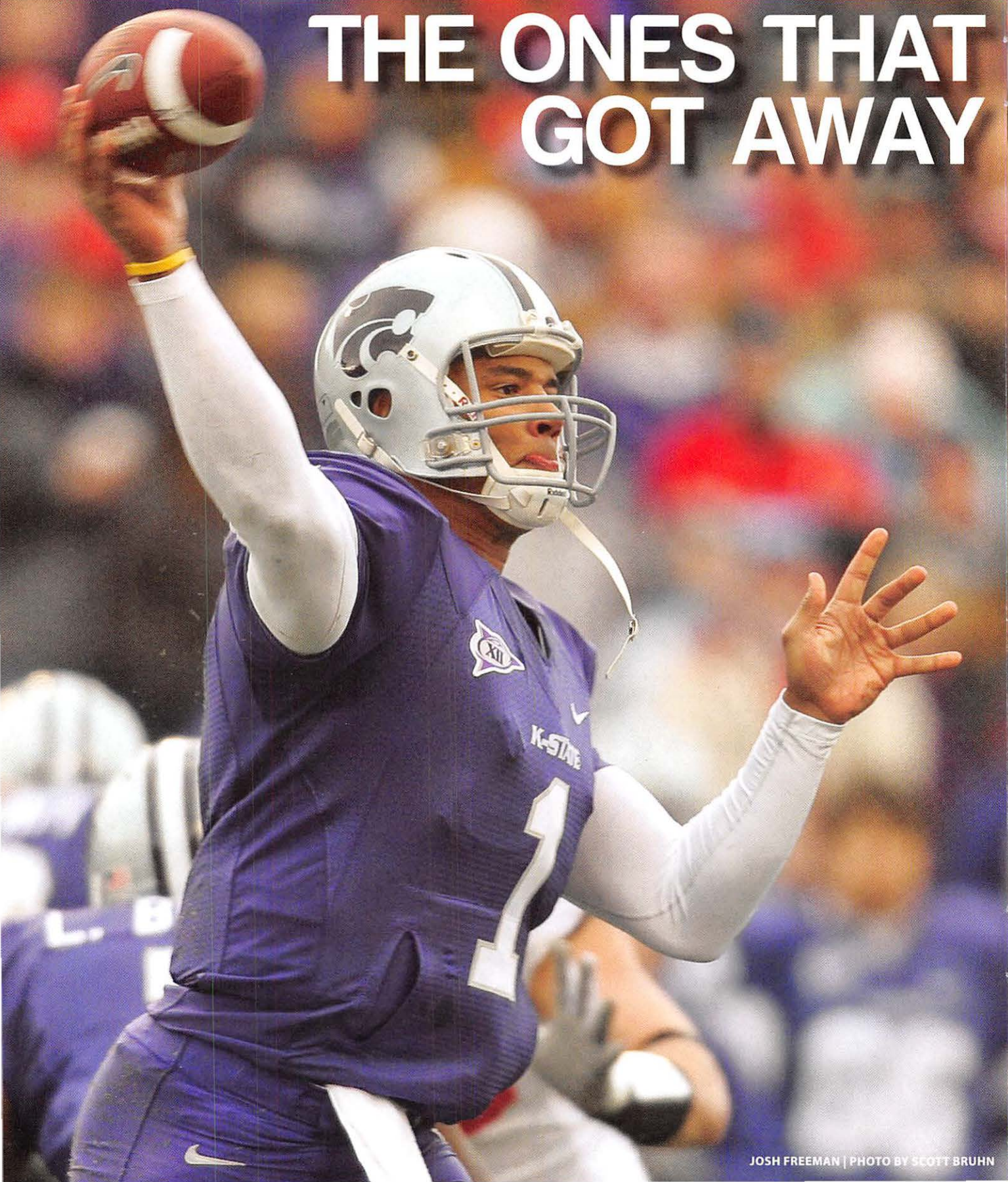
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THE ONES THAT
GOT AWAY



JOSH FREEMAN | PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

BY MIKE BABCOCK

BUBBA STARLING was among the members of Nebraska's 2011 recruiting class. You know the story. The quarterback from Gardner, Kan., was the fifth pick in the Major League Draft and signed with the Kansas City Royals rather than compete in baseball and football for the Huskers.

Starling's decision left Nebraska fans wondering what might have been. That's the nature of recruiting. There's always speculation about the ones who got away.

In 2000, **CARLYLE HOLIDAY**, a quarterback from Roosevelt High School in San Antonio, Texas, was at the top of the Huskers' list but accepted a scholarship from Notre Dame.

"Carlyle Holiday's signing a letter of intent with Notre Dame was probably bigger news in Nebraska than it was in South Bend, Ind. That's just a guess. But it's an educated one," said a story in the March 2000 issue of *Huskers Illustrated*. After all, Notre Dame signed three other quarterbacks.

Nebraska's recruiting class that season didn't include a quarterback. During his letter-of-intent-signing-day news conference, Husker coach Frank Solich was asked about Holiday. "We would have liked to have gotten a quarterback this year," he said without mentioning Holiday by name.

Holiday played quarterback at Notre Dame until his junior year, starting 21 games his first two seasons. He started three games at quarterback as a junior then gave way to Brady Quinn and moved to wide receiver, the position at which he finished his college career.

The Huskers lost another coveted quarterback to Notre Dame in 2003, **TOMMY ZBIKOWSKI**. Zbikowski was an outstanding option quarterback at Buffalo Grove, Ill., High School but played safety at Notre Dame and now plays safety and returns kicks for the NFL's Baltimore Ravens.

Solich had problems recruiting quarterbacks. Two of his classes didn't include any, and his 1999 class lost **CARL CRAWFORD**, who signed with the Tampa Bay Rays. Had Crawford come to Nebraska from Jefferson Davis High in Houston, **JAMMAL LORD** might have played safety.

New York Jets quarterback **MARK SANCHEZ**, the national prep player of the year at Mission Viejo, Calif., High School, was on Nebraska's recruiting list in 2005 and returned the interest. After **HARRISON BECK** committed, however, coach Bill Callahan backed off Sanchez, noting on letter-of-intent-signing day that what Beck could "do in this offense was greater in the long run."

Sanchez went to USC. Beck transferred to North Carolina State and then to North Alabama.

Callahan didn't get a scholarship quarterback in 2006. **JOSH FREEMAN** from Grandview, Mo., had orally committed to the Huskers only to back out and accept a scholarship from Kansas State and enroll at mid-term. He left after his junior season and starts for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers now.

"We went after one quarterback that I really liked on film," said Callahan. "We just got into it too late." That quarterback was **GARRETT GREEN** from Sherman Oaks, Calif. He went to USC.

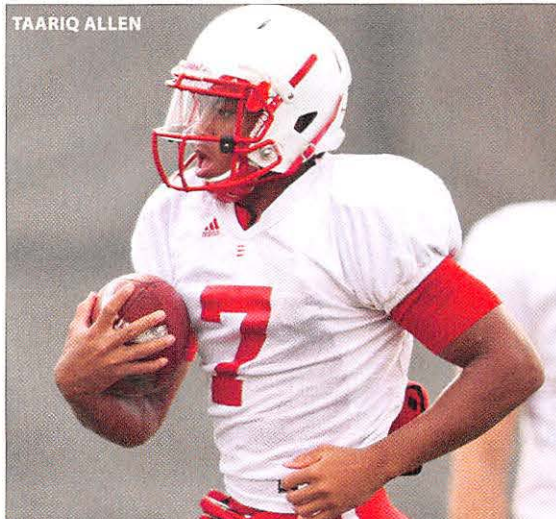
BLAINE GABBERT from Parkway West High in Ballwin, Mo., committed to Nebraska in 2008, but after Callahan was fired, signed with Missouri. He now plays for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Gabbert's brother **TYLER** also committed to Nebraska, in 2010, then changed his mind, went to Missouri, redshirted, transferred to Louisville and is now at Central Florida.

HI'S TOP 5

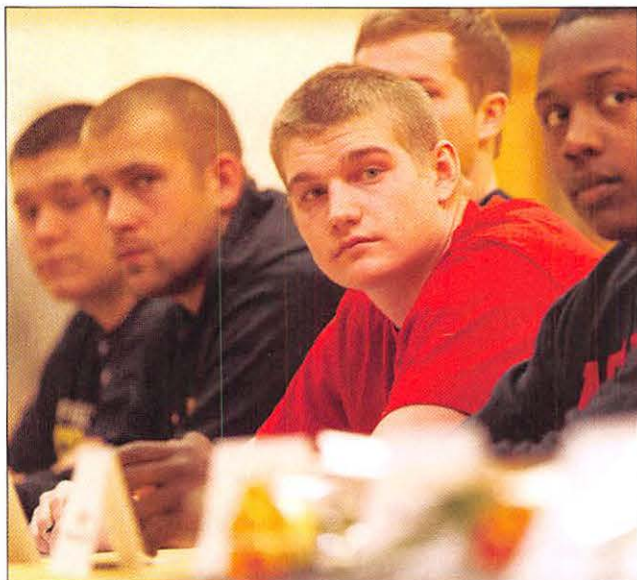
FIVE TO LOSE REDSHIRTS

TAARIQ ALLEN



Spring practice provides an opportunity for those who redshirted in the fall to compete for a place on the depth chart. Here are five worth watching.

- 1 DAVID SANTOS**, LB (Fr. 6-2, 205), Spring, Texas
If injuries at linebacker had become a problem, Santos probably would have played without redshirting, spent practice time with the top units early in the season.
- 2 TAARIQ ALLEN**, WR (Fr. 6-3, 195), Weston, Mass.
Roomed with freshman running backs Ameer Abdullah, Aaron Green and Braylon Heard, coached by Rich Fisher at The Rivers School, proved tough to cover on the scout team.
- 3 RYNE REEVES**, OL (Fr. 6-3, 300), Crete, Neb.
First to commit in 2011 recruiting class, impressed on the scout team, played guard in high school but could compete at center to replace Mike Caputo.
- 4 MIKE MARROW**, FB (So. 6-2, 250), Holland, Ohio
Heralded transfer from Alabama by way of Eastern Michigan had to sit out under transfer rules, despite initial uncertainty whether that would be the case.
- 5 BRONSON MARSH**, S (Fr. 6-0, 200), Omaha, Neb.
Member of 2010 recruiting class but delayed enrollment, stepped in at scout-team quarterback, where he played in high school, but still figures in the plans on defense.



ALL IN THE FAMILY

Sam Cotton will join brothers Ben and Jake and dad Barney at Nebraska. Like Ben, Sam is a tight end. "He's maybe a little ahead of where Ben was when we recruited him a few years ago," Bo Pelini said. "Hopefully, he develops the same way and brings the same things to the table that Ben did."

"I'll take another

Ben Cotton in a second."

Sam is the ~~only~~ the Huskers' only in-state scholarship recruit in 2012.

The class is Nebraska's first with just one in-state athlete, in fact. The 2009 class had two; otherwise, the Huskers have always brought in at least three in-state scholarship recruits.

ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Nebraska's 17 scholarship recruits come from 13 states, the most diversity since 1995, when 15 states were represented among 26 letter-of-intent signees.

This year's class included at least one from California for a 14th consecutive year as well as at least one from Texas for a 12th consecutive year. Those states were each home to two Husker recruits.

Aaron Curry is from the Dallas-Fort Worth area – Keller, Texas.

However, "I thought we got a little bit away from the Dallas area this year," Bo Pelini said, adding that "if we had a do-over again" things might have been different.

"You live and learn," he said.

For the record, all-time, Nebraska has had at least one football letterman from every state except Delaware, Kentucky, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

"If we get 90 percent of our players from in-state and 500 miles from this campus, that would be the best-case scenario," said Pelini. "Every year's going to be a little bit different."

"This year, we were out there to a lot of different places, obviously, 13 different states. I don't know if it's always going to be like that."

SIDELINES

NUMBERS GAME

The Huskers' 17 scholarship recruits are the fewest since 1984, when they also signed 17.

"There are certain needs you want to fit and certain numbers you want to have as far as your roster is concerned," said Bo Pelini. "Going in, at one point, we had 12 outgoing seniors (on scholarship) and then when you talk about guys who leave the program for one reason or another, we're able to comfortably sign 17 guys and feel real good about it."

"We start preparing and putting together our numbers for next year's class (and) it'll be one thing. But then as the season goes on and your needs change, you have to make sure you have enough depth on your board that you're ready to adjust as things go along."

NATIONAL FOCUS

Because of population base, Nebraska has to recruit nationally, of course. Several factors come into play, and "that's ever-changing," Bo Pelini said.

For example, "there are very few airlines that come into Lincoln, and most of the direct flights come into Omaha," he said. "Even that's gone down a little bit than from the past."

"That's another thing we have to keep an eye on."

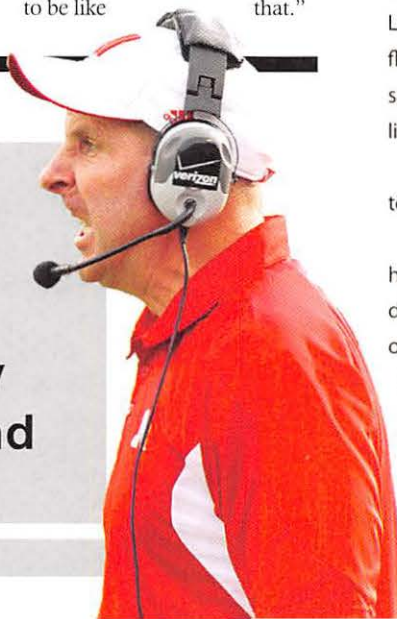
More direct flights would help. "You can recruit a kid all day and if you can't get him here or it's real difficult to get him here, it's going to be hard to get that kid," said Pelini.

"It plays a bigger piece of the puzzle than you think."

Bo Pelini

YOU HEARD IT

"Every time you play it's an opportunity of a lifetime. You've got to respect every opportunity you get to go out there and compete."



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MICHAEL ROSE



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

NEW CROP OF LINEBACKERS

With the loss of **LAVONTE DAVID** and adjusting to the downhill offenses of the Big Ten, linebackers were a recruiting emphasis, and the Huskers signed four: junior college transfer **ZAIRE ANDERSON** and high school athletes **JARED AFALAVA**, **THOMAS BROWN** and **MICHAEL ROSE**.

"We felt like the linebacker position was one where we needed to get more depth and get more numbers, bottom line, because of the new conference and kind of how we were recruiting there for a few years when we were playing in the

Big 12 against all the spread-out teams," said Bo Pelini.

"So we feel really good about what we were able to accomplish at the linebacker position."

Anderson has a chance to play immediately. "We'll see how it plays out," Pelini said. "One thing we don't do is promise playing time. We recruit the best athletes we can."

"Zaire is a good player and somebody we think can help us. How quickly that is, we'll find out. Obviously, on the surface, we like what he brings to the table."

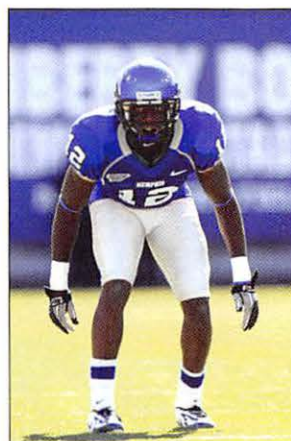
SECONDARY TO START

LEROY ALEXANDER and **ALONZO MOORE** were listed as "athletes" on the letter-of-intent-signing list. But both will start their Husker careers as cornerbacks, along with junior college transfer **MOHAMMED**

SEISAY (pictured), who is enrolled for second-semester classes and will participate in spring practice. "Moore could probably play safety, too,

if he wanted to," said Bo Pelini. "And for that matter, Seisay could. But we recruited those guys as corners."

"At the end of the day, we're a little bit



different than other people in the defensive backfield. We recruit defensive backs and then

figure out where they fit. To me, if you can play corner and have certain size and body type, you can easily move back and play safety and vice versa."

SEISAY PHOTO BY JOE MURPHY PHOTOGRAPHY

LARRY THE CABLE GUY

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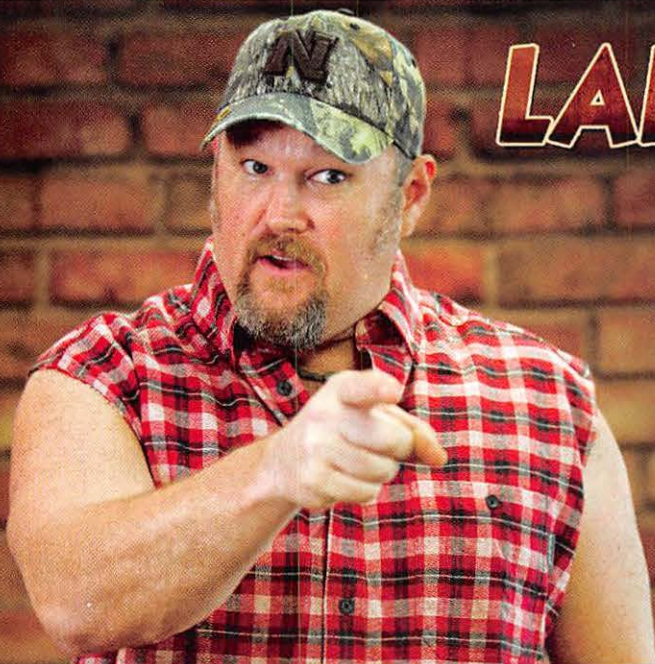


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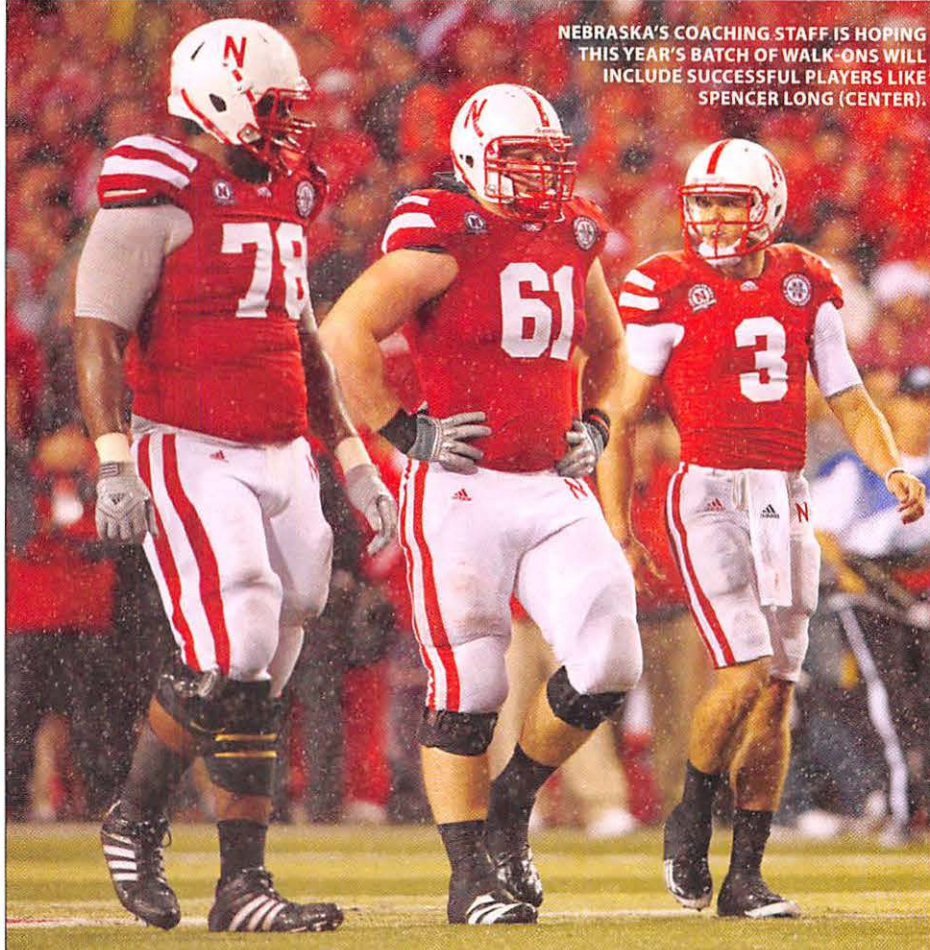


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NEBRASKA'S COACHING STAFF IS HOPING THIS YEAR'S BATCH OF WALK-ONS WILL INCLUDE SUCCESSFUL PLAYERS LIKE SPENCER LONG (CENTER).

As good as it gets

In addition to the 17 scholarship players, Nebraska's 2012 recruiting class includes 19 walk-ons, 18 of whom were announced on letter-of-intent-signing day.

Paperwork for the 19th hadn't been completed.

"I think this is probably one of the most talented walk-on classes that we've brought in," said Bo Pelini. "There are a lot of quality football players, guys I feel that will be able to help us down the line. I feel really good with what we were able to do with the walk-on class."

Nebraska became known nationally as a haven for walk-ons under Tom Osborne, but the walk-on program was de-emphasized during Bill

Callahan's tenure as coach. Pelini is restoring it.

"We like to keep a couple of scholarships back for walk-ons and guys in our program currently who can potentially earn scholarships," he said on signing day.

He has awarded scholarships to 14 walk-ons during his four years as coach.

"I get a little more comfortable with it as you move forward, now that we're going into year five developing an understanding of who these guys are and what they can become," said Pelini.

This year's walk-ons "kind of remind you of some of the guys that are in your program now, and you can

kind of compare them to guys who were at a similar point a couple of years ago," he said. "I like this group of guys; I do. I think there's a lot of talent there."

Nebraska's Capital One Bowl depth chart included 49 position players, 15 of whom walked on. Four of them started – center Mike Caputo, guards Spencer Long and Seung Hoon Choi and safety Austin Cassidy. Caputo and Cassidy were among those put on scholarship.

Punter-place-kicker Brett Maher also walked on, as did long-snapper PJ Mangieri, another who has earned a scholarship. And five others who walked on started at least once this season.



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- Nebraska vs. UCLA game ticket from the official Nebraska allotment.
- Two or three nights (it's up to you!) accommodations at the luxurious Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel, or similar property. Short walk from the Santa Monica Pier, Third Street Promenade and Santa Monica Place.
- Exclusive pre-game events, including the popular Husker Huddle.
- Round-trip game day transportation.
- Exclusive trip souvenir, plus keepsake name badge, lanyard and luggage tags.
- NAA hospitality desk to assist you.

Trips start at \$599 per person (including all local and state taxes). This trip does not include airfare.



Ohio State, Oct. 5-7, 2012

- Nebraska vs. Ohio State game ticket from the official Nebraska allotment.
- Round-trip charter air transportation from Lincoln to Columbus.
- Two nights stay at the Sheraton Hotel on Capitol Square. Located across the street from the capitol building and minutes from the Arena District, Short North Arts District and German Village with dozens of options for dining and shopping.
- Exclusive pre-game events, including the popular Husker Huddle.
- Round-trip game day transportation.
- Exclusive trip souvenir, plus keepsake name badge, lanyard and luggage tags.
- NAA hospitality desk to assist you.

Trips start at \$1349 per person.

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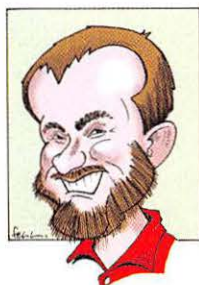
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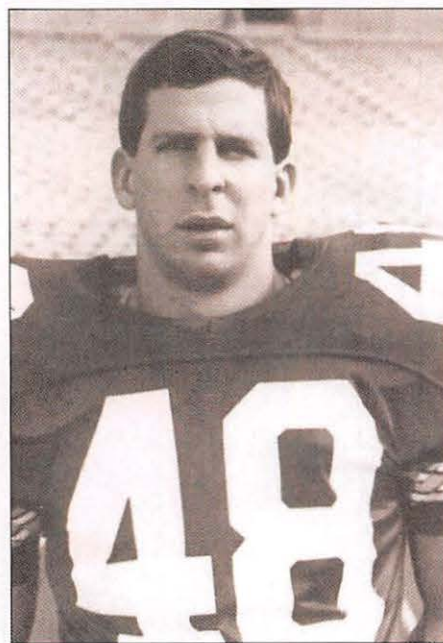


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Huskers Illustrated

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2MinuteDrill



No fanfare for Bo

When Bo Pelini signed a letter of intent with Ohio State his senior year at Cardinal Mooney High School in Youngstown, Ohio, there was no production, no news conference at which he indicated his decision by pulling on a Buckeyes' hat. "I know one thing, in my house, there was going to be no grabbing a hat," he said. "I signed, and my parents said, 'Get your butt to school.' That's the way it happened there. And that's the way it should be."

BIG TEN COUNTRY

Five in the 2012 recruiting class were from the Big Ten area – two each from Ohio and Illinois and one from Pennsylvania, by way of a California junior college – by design, according to Pelini.

The two from Ohio, LeRoy Alexander (Toledo) and Greg McMullen (Akron) give Pelini six from his home state in five years. The others were Max Pirman (Orrville) and Kevin Williams (Holland) in 2011, Braylon Heard (Youngstown) in 2010 and Tim Marlowe (Youngstown) in 2009.

"We tried to get a little more in depth in Ohio," said Pelini.

In addition, "I thought we did a good job over on the East Coast, in the Northeast, probably better than we have in the past," he said. "We developed some relationships there. I think that'll be a good spot for us moving forward. Every year we sit down as a staff and talk about how the areas might move. I think there are some areas, and I don't want to get into specifics, but I thought we moved out

of them last year because we got into a new conference that we'll go back a little heavier into next year.

"You kind of learn as you go. The Big Ten and our membership there is new. Over time you start to learn how it's going to change and how it's going to affect your program."

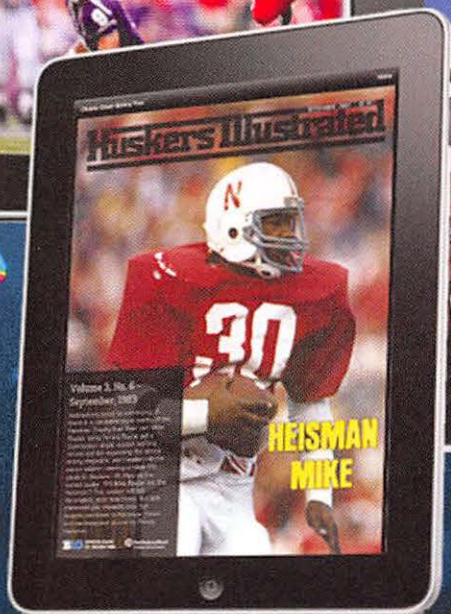
PARENTAL CONCERN

Interestingly enough, getting prospects to Lincoln isn't as significant an issue as getting parents there. "We bat a really good percentage when we get kids here on campus and they can see the type of atmosphere here, the type of people that are here, the type of program that we have, and they're able to see it first-hand," Bo Pelini said. However, "it's real important to get their parents on campus rather than them (players) going home and trying to translate to their parents."

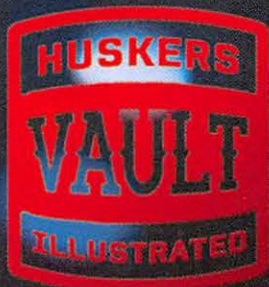
That also applies to parents being able to get to Husker games. "The easier it is and less expensive it is to get their parents here makes it a lot easier to recruit those kids," said Pelini.

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Nebraska to face at least five teams with new head coaches

For the second consecutive year, it won't be a restful off-season for Nebraska's coaching staff as Bo Pelini and Co. will have to break down and analyze at least five opponents with new head coaches next season.

All three of the NU's scheduled non-conference foes (Southern Miss, UCLA and Arkansas State) will have new head coaches -- as will Big Ten Conference opponents Ohio State and Penn State. That number could rise, depending upon the opponent Nebraska adds during the off-season to round out its non-conference slate.

Here's a look at Nebraska's scheduled opponents in 2012:

Southern Miss (Sept. 1): The Golden Eagles capped a 12-2 season that included winning a Conference USA championship by defeating Nevada 24-17



in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl. Southern Miss will not only have a new head coach in Ellis Johnson -- the former South Carolina defensive coordinator who replaces North Carolina-bound Larry Fedora -- but will also have to replace 3,500-yard passer Austin Davis at quarterback. USM expects to return plenty of running back depth and top defenders in DE Jamie Collins and CB Deron Wilson.

At UCLA (Sept. 8): The Bruins won the Pac-12 South Division championship by default as Southern California was on probation and ineligible



to play in the title game but still cost former coach Rick Neuheisel his job with a 6-7 record that turned into 6-8 following a 20-14 loss to Illinois in the Kraft Fight Hunger Bowl. New coach Jim Mora's squad returns QB

Kevin Prince (1,828 yards and 12 TDs passing) and leading rusher Johnathan Franklin (976 yards).

Arkansas State (Sept. 15): The Red Wolves lost to Northern Illinois in the GoDaddy.com Bowl (38-20) to finish with a 10-3



record. Arkansas State was 8-0 in conference play to win the 2011 Sun Belt title and expects to return QB Ryan Aplin, who ended the regular season with 3,235 yards and 18 TDs passing to go with his 605 yards and nine TDs rushing. Former Auburn offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn takes over as head coach in 2012, replacing Hugh Freeze, who left to coach Mississippi.

Wisconsin (Sept. 29): After losing to the Badgers 48-17 this past season in Madison, Wis., Nebraska can take comfort in



the knowledge that quarterback Russell Wilson and leading receiver Nick Toon completed their eligibility in a 45-38 Rose Bowl loss to Oregon. However, star RB Montee Ball, a junior who rushed for 1,923 yards and 33 TDs, has decided to return for his senior year and WR Jared Abbrederis (55 receptions for 933 yards and eight TDs) will also be back as a junior for an 11-3 Wisconsin squad.

At Ohio State (Oct. 6): Nebraska will travel to Columbus, Ohio, to play in the Horseshoe against a Buckeyes' program in its first season under coach Urban Meyer. No doubt, Ohio State (6-7 in



2011) will be looking to avenge its 34-27 loss to the Huskers at Lincoln. Leading rusher (715 yards and seven TDs) and passer (1,159 yards and 13 TDs) Braxton

Miller, who gave NU fits with his mobility before leaving the game with an injury, returns as a sophomore in 2012. Due to NCAA sanctions, OSU will be ineligible for post-season play.

At Northwestern (Oct. 20):

After a mid-season bye week, Nebraska will play the Wildcats in its second consecu-



tive Big Ten Conference road game at Evanston, Ill. Northwestern finished the season 6-7 after a 33-22 loss to Texas A&M in the Meineke Car Care Bowl of Texas, but upset the Huskers 28-25 last season in Lincoln. While the Wildcats will lose senior QB Dan Persa, the signal-caller who hurt Nebraska the most -- Kain Colter -- has been groomed to take over.

Michigan (Oct. 27): The Wolverines enjoyed a revival this past season, finishing 11-2 after a 23-20 overtime victory in



the Sugar Bowl under first-year head coach Brady Hoke. Michigan's 2012 outlook again will depend on the play of QB Denard Robinson, who considered forgoing his senior season to enter the NFL draft. He'll return, however, and would seemingly be a Heisman candidate after passing for 2,173 yards and 20 TDs and rushing for another 1,176 yards and 16 TDs in 2011.

At Michigan State (Nov. 3): The Spartans capped an 11-3



season with a 33-30 triple-overtime victory over Georgia in the Outback Bowl. Michigan State will have the difficult task of replacing a three-year starter at quarterback in Kirk Cousins and top wide receiver B.J. Cunningham. Leading rusher Le'Veon Bell (948 yards and 13 TDs) returns, but Edwin Baker (665 yards and

five TDs) does not, deciding to skip his senior season in favor of the NFL draft.

Penn State (Nov. 10): The Nittany Lions' tumultuous 2011 season mercifully came to an end with a



30-14 loss to Houston in the Ticket City Bowl as Penn State finished the season 9-4. That included a 1-3 mark after long-time head coach Joe Paterno was fired in the wake of a sex scandal. He has been replaced by Bill O'Brien, formerly the offensive coordinator for the New England Patriots. RB Silas Redd (1,241 yards and seven TDs rushing) will be counted on to lead the offense in 2012.

Minnesota (Nov. 17): The Golden Gophers, who appeared almost punchless during a 41-14 home loss to Nebraska last season in



Minneapolis, were able to upset Iowa the next week and won two of their final five games to finish 3-9 overall. QB Marqueis Gray, who was both the leading passer (1,495 yards and eight TDs) and rusher (966 yards and six TDs), returns as a senior, but three senior starters on the offensive line will have to be replaced.

At Iowa (Nov. 23): The Hawkeyes struggled down the stretch in 2011, losing three of their final four games, including a 31-14



Insight Bowl setback against Oklahoma, to finish 7-6. QB James Vandenberg, who passed for 3,022 yards and 25 TDs, is expected to return for his senior season. But junior-to-be RB Marcus Coker (1,384 yards and 15 TDs), was suspended for the bowl game and released from his scholarship. Junior WR Marvin McNutt (1,315 yards and 12 TDs receiving) considered entering the NFL draft but announced his intention to return via Facebook.

Fundamental changes taking place at Haymarket Park

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

Change is palpable around the Nebraska baseball program, and it's not just because the Cornhuskers practiced outside in January for two weeks before Mother Nature evened the count.

While watching a number of the scrimmages the team held at Haymarket Park, it was easy to see the cosmetic changes being made by new head coach Darin Erstad and his staff.

A number of players were playing new positions from last spring – Kash Kalkowski at first, Kurt Farmer at third, Chad Christensen in right field, being moved to better succeed by Erstad and his coaches.

While position changes and warm weather have been nice, a bigger, more fundamental shift is taking place in the Nebraska baseball program. Nebraska is learning to compete again.

The past decade has been a bit of a rollercoaster for the program. The Huskers made back-to-back College World Series appearances in 2001 and 2002 and picked up their first CWS win in 2005. But something changed. The Huskers started missing regionals and Big 12 tournaments, falling to the basement of the conference it once owned.

That culture of losing is what Erstad – one of the most confident, and competitive people you'll ever meet – is trying to change. That starts with assistant coach Will Bolt, who played on the 2001 and 2002 CWS teams, and volunteer assistant coach Jeff Christy who caught on Nebraska's 2005 team.

"They understand what it takes from an unselfish standpoint to be successful as a team," Erstad said.

Baseball, more than maybe any other sport, is about attitude. It's about doing the little things, like taking a pitch in the back to get on base or stretching a liner in the gap to a triple. It's also having the confidence to know that you're going to strike out a hitter in a tough spot or get an important bunt down. That confidence, Erstad says, is something that might have been lacking in the past.

That's the biggest thing his staff is seeking to change in practices this spring.

"We have talent there, the thing we really need to get them to do is to teach them to win, and how to practice to breed confidence in those situations because they just



Nebraska is going to make things happen, make its own breaks and try to enforce its will on teams.

haven't been able to get over the hump," Erstad said. "If you look at the games last year, we were very competitive to the sixth inning and then when times got tough, the wheels kind of fell off. They played hard, they just never kept it together for nine innings."

Erstad's coaching mentors come from a long-line of no-nonsense guys – Mike Scioscia and Joe Maddon when he was with Anaheim, and he's passing along that attitude to his team.

"You can tell this team is focused and ready to go," senior outfielder Kale Kiser said. "We're more prepared than I've seen a team since I've been here. We are definitely prepared and we are ready to get this thing going."

Even the Huskers' approach on the base paths has signaled an attitude change. Erstad promised "chaos on the base paths," which reflects the attitude he hopes to impart. Nebraska is going to make things happen, make its own breaks and try to enforce its will on teams. It's also a departure from years past, where the team waited for big hits, and finished near the bottom of the Big 12 in stolen bases.

While Nebraska will still have to prove it's back on the field, the first step of changing the culture of Nebraska baseball, is taking hold.

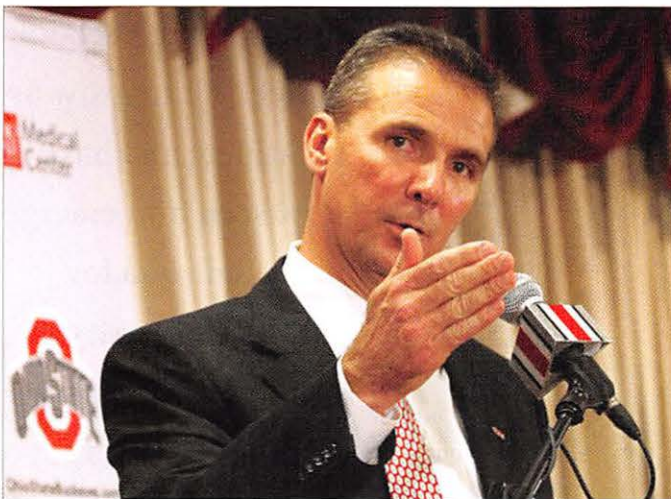
"When I played, here to Omaha you might as well have been going to moon," said Erstad, who roamed the outfield at the old Buck Beltzer for the Huskers. "It was a long way away, and they made it a reality in a short amount of time. That's powerful stuff." **N**

*Read daily Husker reports from Michael Bruntz at HuskersIllustrated.com
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THEBIGTENBEAT

Meyer helps Ohio State land top-5 class

Despite NCAA sanctions, Meyer and Buckeyes reel in one of nation's top recruiting classes | TERRY DOUGLASS



Despite everything that Ohio State's football program has endured and the NCAA sanctions it's yet to face, the Buckeyes once again landed the Big Ten Conference's most highly regarded recruiting class.

Bolstered by the hiring of high-profile head coach Urban Meyer, Ohio State's 25-member 2012 class was ranked No. 5 nationally by 247Sports.com, edging rival Michigan (No. 8). The Buckeyes landed the Big Ten's only two five-star recruits in the defensive end tandem of Noah Spence (6-foot-3, 235 pounds) of Bishop Mcdevitt High School in Harrisburg, Pa., and Adolphus Washington (6-5, 245) of Taft High School in Cincinnati.

"I keep hearing this is a top-five class or a top-three class, but that doesn't mean a whole lot to me, personally," said Meyer, whose program faces

a postseason ban in 2012. "At the end of the day, it's what happens in two or three years from now."

The impact of Meyer, who won two national titles in his previous coaching stop at Florida, was obvious. Ohio State went from having 12 verbal commitments on Nov. 29 -- the day Meyer was hired -- to finishing with 25 players in a class that included nine of 247Sports.com's top 247 prospects.

OSU finished strong in the final week, beating out Michigan for four-star cornerback Armani Reeves as well as adding top-247 players in linebacker Jamal Marcus and offensive lineman Kyle Dodson. A total of eight players who had had given verbal commitments to other school -- four of them from Penn State -- wound up with the Buckeyes.

HOKE HEAVY ON D-LINE

Already pleased with a top-10 national recruiting finish in his staff's first full season together, head coach Brady Hoke and Michigan got an unexpected surprise on national signing day when four-star running back Dennis Norfleet switched his pledge from Cincinnati to the Wolverines.

That gave Michigan a Big-Ten best 14 four-star recruits to go along with 11 three-stars in the 25-member class.

The Wolverines made a big play to strengthen their defensive line, adding four four-star defensive linemen.

"Going to a 4-3 (defense), I think we had seven or eight guys on scholarship on the defensive line," Hoke said. "Usually that's 12 to 14. Our numbers have been down there for one reason or another, so we tried to address that."

"That's where the game is played."

BADGERS' BLESSING

Wisconsin was perhaps the biggest surprise of the 2012 recruiting season, finishing 11th in the 12-team Big Ten ratings, according to 247Sports.com. Coming off a conference title and Rose Bowl bid, the Badgers signed just 12 players in their 2012 class.

"I think it was a blessing in disguise that it was a small class," said Wisconsin coach Bret Bielema, who had to overcome six of his nine assistants leaving the program to take other jobs. "I do think if it would have been another 10 players that we had to keep track of, it wouldn't have been good."

RECRUITING RECAP

Here's a listing of each Big Ten program's top individual recruit with the team's overall national ranking (in parenthesis), according to 247Sports.com:

► **OHIO STATE (5):** Noah Spence (6-3, 235) was rated as the nation's No. 1 DE and the No. 12 player in the country.

► **MICHIGAN (8):** Ondre Pipkins (6-3, 305) was the country's No. 6-rated DT and the No. 51 player overall (No. 2 in Missouri).

► **NEBRASKA (29):** Michael Rose (6-0, 225), ranked No. 138 overall, was regarded as the nation's No. 8 LB recruit.

► **IOWA (37):** Faith Ekakitie (6-3, 285) is rated as the No. 4 player in Illinois and the country's No. 15 DE.

► **MICHIGAN STATE (38):** The No. 1 player in Michigan was Aaron Burbridge (6-2, 180), who was ranked as the country's No. 9 WR.

► **PENN STATE (39):** Jamil Pollard (6-4, 270) was the nation's No. 16-rated DT and ranked No. 6 overall in New Jersey.

► **PURDUE (54):** Ryan Watson (6-3, 275) is Maryland's No. 10 player and ranked as the nation's No. 18 DE.

► **MINNESOTA (59):** The No. 2 player in Minnesota was Andre McDonald (6-3, 195), who was regarded as the country's No. 62 WR.

► **INDIANA (60):** Nathan Sudfeld (6-5, 215) was ranked as the country's No. 20-rated pro-style QB out of California.

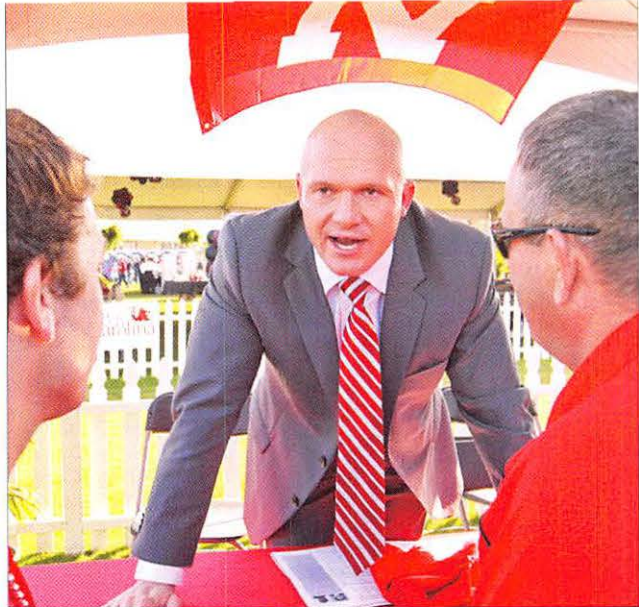
► **NORTHWESTERN (61):** Ifeadi Odenigbo (6-3, 212) was ranked as Ohio's No. 5-rated player and the nation's No. 8 LB.

► **WISCONSIN (65):** No. 1-rated Wisconsin prospect Vince Biegel (6-3, 210) is regarded as the country's No. 18 LB.

► **ILLINOIS (68):** Vontrell Williams (6-2, 265) was ranked No. 16 overall in Illinois and No. 53 among the nation's DTs.

CATCHING UP WITH MATT DAVISON

BY RANDY YORK



Husker legend creating captains with character

Next to Johnny Rodgers, Mike Rozier and Eric Crouch, Matt Davison would seem to be the least likely candidate to be featured in Huskers Illustrated's popular "Catching Up With" series that chronicles what Nebraska football players are doing after their gridiron glories fade and they hone in on their lives.

Almost every Husker fan knows what Davison is doing because NU's all-time leading receiver in bowl games is almost ubiquitous. The freshman that made the miracle catch at Missouri and saved Nebraska's 1997 national championship season, Davison is on the air as the color commentator for Greg Sharpe on Nebraska football broadcasts and supports Kent Pavelka, the veteran play-by-play voice on NU basketball

broadcasts.

If you follow Big Red's only two money-making sports consistently, Matt Davison seems to be here, there and everywhere. But that's the point. Even those that work closely with Davison don't see perhaps his greatest passion during each week's grueling grind through football and basketball seasons.

If you really want to catch up with Davison, ask him about the passion that reinforces his profession. Creating Captains is an organization he founded that enables Davison to share his experiences as a two-sport athlete at Nebraska. He uses a combination of skills training and character building to encourage and excite students to reach their highest potential.

A statewide program, Creating Captains is designed to empower

student-athletes to live a life of character, both on and off the field. Davison believes strongly that once youngsters are engaged with positive messages early in their athletic careers, they're equipped to succeed. "Our goal," Davison said, "is to instill values and to teach lessons that last a lifetime."

Davison stole a page from Tom Osborne, the Hall-of-Fame coach for whom he played and a three-term Congressman he respects greatly. "Coach Osborne always believed that today's athletes should become tomorrow's leaders," Davison said, "because the same principles that work in the locker room can apply to schools across the state and to communities anywhere and everywhere."

Creating Captains is Davison's creative concept to challenge youth to be courageous in the face of peer pressure and to

"I first met Matt as a junior in high school, watched him grow as an athlete and have now seen him emerge as an ambassador for the University of Nebraska. Creating Captains is a way for Matt to share his experiences as a student-athlete and help to guide our younger generation."

**-- Tom Osborne,
Nebraska Athletic Director**

become agents of change that will help influence other leaders. "Creating Captains is built on four core values: character, courage, leadership and respect," Davison said. "The organization we've put together believes those four pillars support a life of excellence and will help young athletes become role models for their peers, so they, too, can become leaders in their communities."



G, 6-2, 196, SR
BATON ROUGE, LA.

FIVE QUESTIONS

Bo Spencer

LSU transfer heating things up on the court and in the kitchen

Bo Spencer, a senior point guard, is playing in his only season with Nebraska after transferring from LSU, where he played for three seasons.

Like many college basketball players, Spencer said he'd like to continue playing basketball when he's finished with his Nebraska career. If he's not playing, he'd consider coaching, too.

But Spencer has a couple of interests outside of basketball.

"I like cooking," he said. "I don't know if

I want to be a chef or a barber."

Spencer said he would cut many of his teammates' hair when



he played at LSU. At Nebraska, he cuts Jordan Tyrance's hair.

"Not too many people trust people who they never seen cut hair," said

Spencer, who said he'll let teammate Ray Gallegos give him a trim, usually once a week, and before a game.

As for cooking, Spencer it's just something he'd like to learn more how to do.

"I'd like to open a soul food restaurant, but I like to cook a little bit of everything," he said.

Spencer is from Baton Rouge, La., so his favorite dishes shouldn't be too surprising. He said that's either gumbo, or rice, gravy and chicken.

1

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED: How often do you encourage Brandon Richardson to shoot the basketball?

SPENCER: I tell him all the time to let it go. Sometimes he's a little hesitant, but I'm always telling him, 'Let it go, B, let it go.' I know he can shoot the ball real well.

2

HI: How would you rate Blake Griffin's dunk over Kendrick Perkins?

SPENCER: Whew! Right now, I think it's the dunk of the year. It's a 10. That was an incredible dunk.



3

HI: What's the most memorable dunk you've had in a game?

SPENCER: I dunked on one guy, in an AAU tournament, I dunked on one guy who's 6-10. Caught it off the rim, and he didn't know I was coming.

4

HI: What are your thoughts on the Big Ten Conference, and how does it compare to the SEC?

SPENCER: It's different. When I first came out as a freshman (at LSU), that's when they had guys like Chris Lofton, Jodie Meeks. It was a big-time conference. But just coming here and seeing every night ... you can't go into a game thinking you're going to pretty much win. Totally different style of play.

5

HI: What do you like most about your new practice facility?

SPENCER: I like the couch in front of the big TVs. I don't know if there's too much you can add. Maybe personal TVs in our locker? But that's pushing it.



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Choice Numbers

BY AARON BABCOCK

Welcome to choice numbers. Each issue we will try to share some of the more interesting numbers that you may not have seen.

ELITE COMPANY

Taylor Martinez was one of only four FBS quarterbacks to throw for 2,000 or more yards and gain at least 1,000 yards rushing during the 2011 season. Michigan's Denard Robinson also accomplished the feat in 2010 (2,570 yards passing and 1,799 rushing yards).

Player, School	Gm	Att	Cmp	Yds	TD	INT	Rush	Gained	Net	TD
Chandler Harnish, NIU	13	348	219	2942	26	5	185	1488	1382	11
James Franklin, Missouri	13	376	238	2865	21	11	217	1145	981	15
Denard Robinson, Mich	13	258	142	2173	20	15	221	1349	1176	16
Taylor Martinez, Nebraska	13	288	162	2089	13	8	188	1040	874	9

RECENT QUARTERBACKS

Since 1996, six Nebraska quarterbacks have thrown for 2,000 yards in a season, with Zac Taylor accomplishing the feat in 2005 and 2006.

Quarterback	Season	Att	Comp	Yds	TDs
Joe Ganz	2008	420	285	3568	25
Zac Taylor	2006	391	233	3197	26
Zac Taylor	2005	430	237	2653	19
Sam Keller	2007	325	205	2422	14
Zac Lee	2009	288	162	2089	13
Joe Dailey	2004	310	153	2025	17

QUICK HITTERS

25

Number of times Taylor Martinez has been sacked during his 25-game career...has been sacked in all but 3 games.

10

Number of interceptions for Nebraska defense, after recording 19 last season. Only 13 FBS schools had less.

22-10

Pelini's record against conference opponents (won 16 of last 21)

7

Highest ranked team defeated by Pelini (Missouri, Oct. 30, 2010)

7-10

Bo Pelini's record vs. Top 25 teams (includes losses against 5 of the last 7 matchups)

2004

Last time Nebraska ranked in the Top 10 before 2010 (Kenny Bell was 9 years old)

3

Number of weeks in the Top 10 in 2011

Roles changing for players as goals are set high

College World Series is the ultimate goal for Erstad and new coaching staff | BRIAN ROSENTHAL



DARIN ERSTAD

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

TYLER NIEDERKLEIN IS THE EXCEPTION AMONG THE PITCHERS, YOU MIGHT SAY. HIS ROLE WILL BE DEFINED WHEN THE NEBRASKA BASEBALL TEAM OPENS THE SEASON.

Well, sort of defined. "We'll see," pitching coach Ted Silva said of the junior right-hander from Omaha. "Starter's not out of the question, by any means."

The plan, however, is for Niederklein, who started 13-of-16 games

and led the Huskers in innings pitched (69) a year ago, to begin the season as the team's closer.

"We took our best guy that we felt like was the most all-around, (who) stood for what we wanted to do from a pitching

standpoint, and he's going to be our closer," said first-year head coach Darin Erstad. "So that's who we want to get the ball."

"Guys with his kind of mentality, you just throw them out there, and they say, 'OK, Coach.'"

That describes Niederklein, who was 8-3 with a 4.17 ERA as a sophomore. "I'll do whatever they need me to do on this team, whatever's best for the team," he said.

Competition has been the order of the day for pitchers as well as for position players during pre-season practice under Nebraska's new staff. "There's no given role, right now, except with Niederklein late in the game," Silva said following the third practice.

But roles could be set by the start of Big Ten play in late March.

"It'd be nice, yes, going into conference play, having a secure weekend rotation along with developing roles for each guy in the bullpen, long

relief, short relief and a guy at the end," said Silva. "That's what we're hoping for. That's what we're planning for."

Niederklein has been penciled in as the guy at the end because "he kind of feeds off that adrenaline," Erstad said. "He's got the best command on our staff, can field his position very well."

"And he's got a great mentality."

Players across the board need mental toughness in Erstad's system. Competition is "what we base everything on," he said. "This is straight, open competition, and it's going to continue to be for a long time. We're going to give everybody a shot, and when the lights turn on, we'll see who answers the call. It's pretty much as simple as that. They understand that."

"There are going to be guys that are going to play every day and then all of a sudden, they're not in there because somebody else is going to get an opportunity."

Silva is "comfortable" with Niederklein as the closer, that he'll answer the bell when the lights go on, "so we're going to take our chances with him," Silva said.

"There's a lot of flexibility in the so-called 'closer' role in this day and age."

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

When he was introduced as Nebraska's coach last June, Darin Erstad talked about lofty expectations. And he reiterated those expectations at the start of practice in late January. The goal is to "go all the way to the

2012 Baseball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/SCORE
FEB. 17	GONZAGA	PEORIA, ARIZ	8 P.M.
FEB. 18	GONZAGA	PEORIA, ARIZ	8 P.M.
FEB. 19	GONZAGA	PEORIA, ARIZ	1 P.M.
FEB. 24	UTAH	CORPUS CHRISTI, TX	2 P.M.
FEB. 25	UTAH	CORPUS CHRISTI, TX	3 P.M.
FEB. 25	TEXAS A&M-CC	CORPUS CHRISTI, TX	7 P.M.
FEB. 26	UNLV	CORPUS CHRISTI, TX	11 A.M.
MAR. 2	WEST VIRGINIA	MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	12:15 P.M.
MAR. 3	NEW MEXICO ST.	MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	12:05 P.M.
MAR. 4	MINNESOTA	MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	3:05 P.M.
MAR. 6	KANSAS STATE	HAWKS FIELD	2:05 P.M.
MAR. 7	NEB-KEARNEY	HAWKS FIELD	1:35 P.M.
MAR. 9	CAL	HAWKS FIELD	1:35 P.M.
MAR. 10	CAL	HAWKS FIELD	2:05 P.M.
MAR. 11	CAL	HAWKS FIELD	1:05 P.M.
MAR. 12	CAL	HAWKS FIELD	12:05 P.M.
MAR. 13	SO. DAKOTA ST.	HAWKS FIELD	1:35 P.M.
MAR. 15	LOUISIANA TECH	HAWKS FIELD	3:05 P.M.
MAR. 16	LOUISIANA TECH	HAWKS FIELD	1:35 P.M.
MAR. 17	LOUISIANA TECH	HAWKS FIELD	1:35 P.M.
MAR. 18	LOUISIANA TECH	HAWKS FIELD	11:05 A.M.
MAR. 20	NO. COLORADO	HAWKS FIELD	6:35 P.M.
MAR. 21	NO. COLORADO	HAWKS FIELD	1:35 P.M.
MAR. 23	ILLINOIS*	HAWKS FIELD	6:35 P.M.
MAR. 24	ILLINOIS*	HAWKS FIELD	2:05 P.M.
MAR. 25	ILLINOIS*	HAWKS FIELD	1:05 P.M.
MAR. 27	KANSAS STATE	HAWKS FIELD	6:35 P.M.
MAR. 30	NORTHWESTERN*	EVANSTON, ILL.	3 P.M.
MAR. 31	NORTHWESTERN*	EVANSTON, ILL.	1 P.M.
APR. 1	NORTHWESTERN*	EVANSTON, ILL.	1 P.M.
APR. 3	KANSAS STATE	MANHATTAN, KAN.	6:35 P.M.
APR. 6	IOWA*	HAWKS FIELD	6:35 P.M.
APR. 7	IOWA*	HAWKS FIELD	2:05 P.M.
APR. 8	IOWA*	HAWKS FIELD	1:05 P.M.
APR. 10	CREIGHTON	HAWKS FIELD	6:35 P.M.
APR. 13	OHIO STATE*	COLUMBUS, OHIO	5:35 P.M.
APR. 14	OHIO STATE*	COLUMBUS, OHIO	2:05 P.M.
APR. 15	OHIO STATE*	COLUMBUS, OHIO	12:05 P.M.
APR. 20	PURDUE*	HAWKS FIELD	6:35 P.M.
APR. 21	PURDUE*	HAWKS FIELD	2:05 P.M.
APR. 22	PURDUE*	HAWKS FIELD	1:05 P.M.
APR. 24	CREIGHTON	TD AMERITRADE PARK	6:30 P.M.
APR. 27	CSU BAKERSFIELD	HAWKS FIELD	6:35 P.M.
APR. 28	CSU BAKERSFIELD	HAWKS FIELD	2:05 P.M.
APR. 29	CSU BAKERSFIELD	HAWKS FIELD	1:05 P.M.
MAY 5	INDIANA*	BLOOMINGTON, IND.	NOON
MAY 6	INDIANA*	BLOOMINGTON, IND.	NOON
MAY 7	INDIANA*	BLOOMINGTON, IND.	NOON
MAY 8	CREIGHTON	TD AMERITRADE PARK	7 P.M.
MAY 11	MINNESOTA*	HAWKS FIELD	6:35 P.M.
MAY 12	MINNESOTA*	HAWKS FIELD	2:05 P.M.
MAY 13	MINNESOTA*	HAWKS FIELD	1:05 P.M.
MAY 15	WICHITA STATE	HAWKS FIELD	6:35 P.M.
MAY 17	MICHIGAN*	ANN ARBOR, MICH.	5:05 P.M.
MAY 18	MICHIGAN*	ANN ARBOR, MICH.	5:05 P.M.
MAY 19	MICHIGAN*	ANN ARBOR, MICH.	12:05 P.M.
MAY 23-27	BIG TEN TOURNAMENT	COLUMBUS, OHIO	

* BIG TEN MATCH;

ALL TIMES CENTRAL, DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

FIVE WITH 50 OR MORE STARTS RETURNING

Chad Christensen (55-55) .292, 1 HR, 16 RBI, 24 R

Kurt Farmer (55-55) .275, 2 HR, 32 RBI, 23 R

Bryan Peters (55-55) .273, 2 HR, 30 RBI, 39 R, 12-16 SB

Kale Kiser (51-51) .273, 2 HR, 19 RBI, 42 R

Kash Kalkowski (50-52) .299, 5 HR, 42 RBI, 30 R, 11-13 SB

"I mean, if you have any other expectations, (you're) playing for second place, you're playing for participation ribbons, and we're not going to hand out those here. Is that a high goal? Absolutely. Are there a lot of steps along the way? Absolutely. But that's what we're shooting for," he said. "And that's the mindset we're going to have."

DO AS I DO

Associate head coach Will Bolt, a captain on Nebraska's first two College World Series teams (2001-02) and a volunteer assistant on the third (2005), played with passion, and he coaches the same way. He doesn't expect those he coaches to play exactly the same way he did, however. "I think the thing you realize as a coach, probably no one's going to care as much as you do, but you just hope that the guys are going to lay it on the line when they go on the field. Each guy's going to be different."

CHANGING PLACES

Just as Tyler Niederklein will have a new role this season, so will some position players, among them Chad Christensen,

Farmer. Christensen, who started every game at shortstop last season, has been moved to the outfield. Kalkowski has moved from the outfield to first base, while Farmer moves from first to third base, replacing Cody Asche.

Coach Darin Erstad has called Farmer the team's "best infield defender."

THREE NEWCOMERS TO WATCH

Pat Kelly (Fr.), SS

He'll begin the season as the No. 1 shortstop. "He has worked his tail off and has earned the right to start at short," said coach Darin Erstad.

Rich Sanquinetti (Jr.), OF

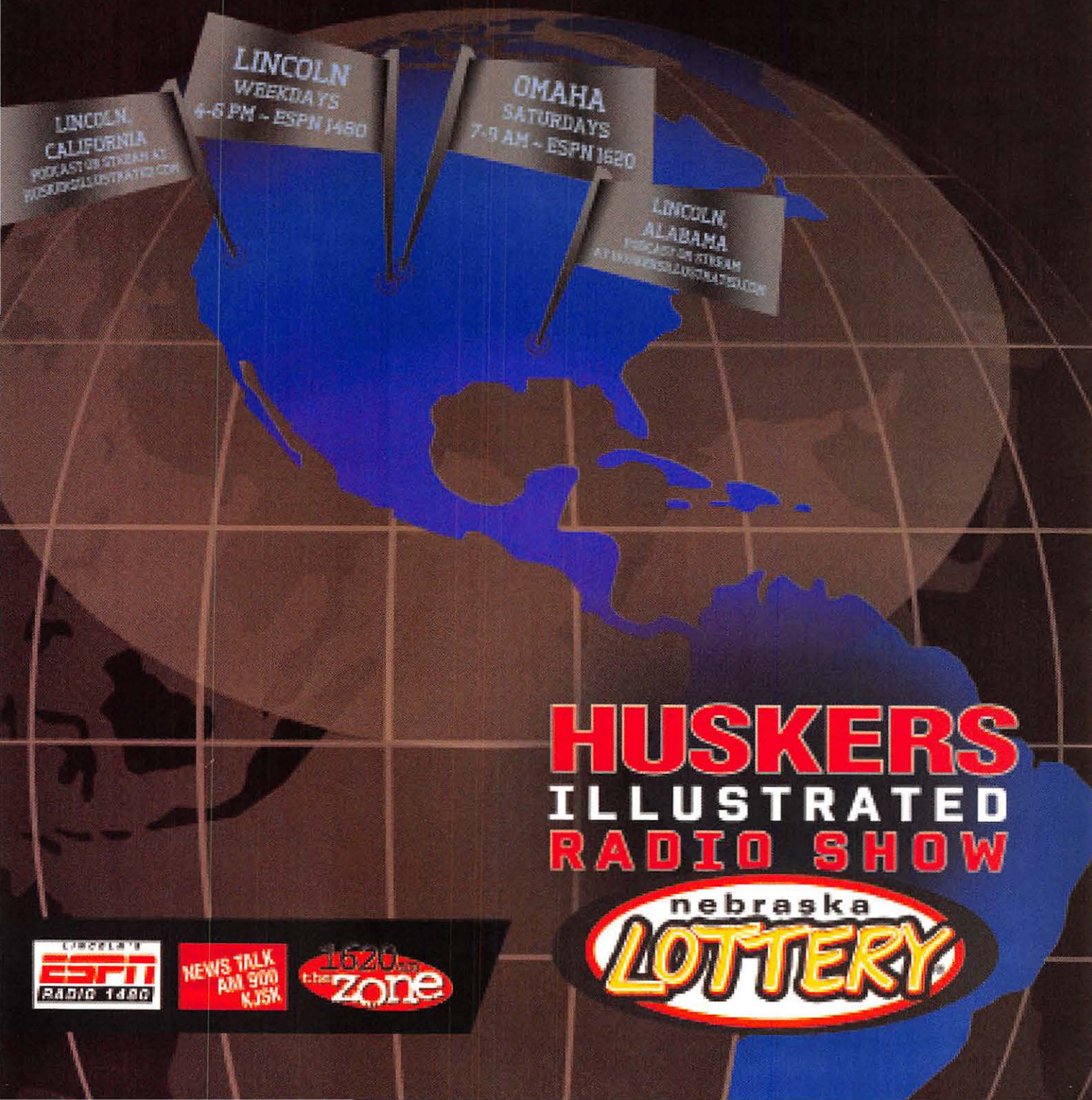
He played for associate head coach Will Bolt at Texarkana (Texas) College, has speed (5-for-5 steals in the Red-White fall series) and figures to fit in at the top of the batting order.

Travis Huber (Jr.), RHP

The 6-foot-3, 225-pound transfer from West Jordan, Utah, by way of the College of Southern Idaho has been selected twice in the MLB Draft by the Florida Marlins.

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THE TOP FOOTBALL RECRUITS OF 2012

RK	POS	NAME	HOMETOWN (SCHOOL)	RATING	COMMIT	RK	POS	NAME	HOMETOWN (SCHOOL)	RATING	COMMIT
1	SDE	Mario Edwards	Denton, TX (Ryan)	100	Florida State	74	OLB	Torshiro Davis	Shreveport, LA (Woodlawn)	96	Texas
2	WR	Dorial Green-Beckham	Springfield, MO (Hillcrest)	100	Michigan	75	Dual	Cyler Miles	Denver, CO (Mullen)	96	Washington
3	S	Landon Collins	Geismar, LA (Dutchtown)	100	Alabama	76	ATH	Scott Jones	Baltimore, MD (Gilman)	96	Alabama
4	OT	Arik Armstead	Elk Grove, CA (Pleasant Grove)	100	Oregon	77	WR	Angelo Jean-Louis	W. Palm Beach, FL (PB Central)	96	Miami
5	OT	D.J. Humphries	Charlotte, NC (Mallard Creek)	99	Florida	78	TE	Ricky Parks	Hogansville, GA (Callaway)	96	Auburn
6	S	Shaq Thompson	Sacramento, CA (Grant)	99	Washington	79	Pro	Travis Wilson	San Clemente, CA (San Clemente)	96	Utah
7	DT	Malcom Brown	Brenham, TX (Brenham)	99	Texas	80	DT	Aziz Shittu	Atwater, CA (Buhach Colony)	96	Stanford
8	ATH	Eddie Williams	Panama City Beach, FL (Arnold)	99	Alabama	81	DT	Sheldon Day	Indianapolis, IN (Warren Central)	96	Notre Dame
9	RB	Johnathan Gray	Aledo, TX (Aledo)	99	Texas	82	CB	Armani Reeves	West Roxbury, MA (Cath Memorial)	96	Ohio State
10	ATH	Stefon Diggs	Olney, MD (Good Counsel)	99	-----	83	Dual	Anthony Alford	Petal, MS (Petal)	96	Southern Miss
11	OT	Kyle Murphy	San Clemente, CA (San Clemente)	99	Stanford	84	OLB	Brian Nance	Eules, TX (Trinity)	95	Baylor
12	WDE	Noah Spence	Harrisburg, PA (Bishop McDevitt)	99	Ohio State	85	WR	Aaron Burbridge	Farmington Hills, MI (Harrison)	95	Michigan St.
13	RB	T.J. Yeldon	Daphne, AL (Daphne)	99	Alabama	86	Pro	Tanner Mangum	Eagle, ID (Eagle)	95	BYU
14	DT	Eddie Goldman	Washington, DC (Friendship)	99	Florida State	87	OT	Kennedy Estelle	Pearland, TX (Dawson)	95	Texas
15	WDE	Dante Fowler	Saint Petersburg, FL (Lakewood)	98	Florida	88	APB	Kenyan Drake	Powder Springs, GA (Hillgrove)	95	Alabama
16	ATH	Ronald Darby	Oxon Hill, MD (Potomac)	98	Florida State	89	CB	Kendall Sanders	Athens, TX (Athens)	95	Texas
17	WR	Deontay Greenberry	Fresno, CA (Washington Union)	98	Houston	90	WR	Marvin Bracy	Orlando, FL (Boone)	95	Florida State
18	DT	Javonte Magee	San Antonio, TX (Sam Houston)	98	Baylor	91	ATH	Bralon Addison	Missouri City, TX (Hightower)	95	Oregon
19	OLB	Ryan Anderson	Daphne, AL (Daphne)	98	Alabama	92	ATH	Sheldon Dawson	Memphis, TN (Ridgeway)	95	Georgia
20	WDE	Adolphus Washington	Cincinnati, OH (Taft)	98	Ohio State	93	ATH	Jeremy Liggins	Oxford, MS (Lafayette)	95	LSU
21	APB	Keith Marshall	Raleigh, NC (Millbrook)	98	Georgia	94	CB	Devante Harris	Mesquite, TX (Horn)	95	Texas A&M
22	WDE	Eli Harold	Virginia Beach, VA (Ocean Lakes)	98	Virginia	95	S	Brian Poole	Bradenton, FL (Southeast)	95	Florida
23	SDE	Darius Hamilton	Ramsey, NJ (Don Bosco)	98	Rutgers	96	OLB	Markus Eligwe	Stone Mountain, GA (Stone Mountain)	95	Florida State
24	Pro	Gunner Kiel	Columbus, IN (Columbus East)	98	Notre Dame	97	S	Adrian Colbert	Mineral Wells, TX (Mineral Wells)	95	Texas
25	APB	Trey Williams	Houston, TX (Dekaney)	98	Texas A&M	98	OLB	Ifeadi Odenigbo	Dayton, OH (Centerville)	95	Northwestern
26	Dual	Jameis Winston	Bessemer, AL (Hueytown)	97	Florida State	99	OLB	Raphael Kirby	Stone Mountain, GA (Stephenson)	95	Miami
27	OG	Isaac Seumalo	Corvallis, OR (Corvallis)	97	Oregon State	100	TE	Jalen Cope-Fitzpatrick	Rocklin, CA (Whitney)	95	USC
28	WDE	Jordan Jenkins	Hamilton, GA (Harris County)	97	Georgia	101	Dual	Chad Kelly	Buffalo, NY (St. Joseph)	95	Clemson
29	APB	Duke Johnson	Miami, FL (Norland)	97	Miami	102	RB	Byron Marshall	San Jose, CA (Valley Christian)	95	Oregon
30	SDE	Jonathan Bullard	Shelby, NC (Crest)	97	Florida	103	S	Elijah Shumate	Ramsey, NJ (Don Bosco)	95	Notre Dame
31	ATH	Nelson Agholor	Tampa, FL (Berkeley Prep)	97	USC	104	OLB	Kwon Alexander	Oxford, AL (Oxford)	95	LSU
32	OLB	Josh Clemons	Valdosta, GA (Lowndes)	97	Georgia	105	OT	Max Tuerk	Santa Margarita, CA (Santa Margarita)	95	USC
33	RB	Alex Ross	Jenks, OK (Jenks)	97	Oklahoma	106	OT	Ereck Flowers	Miami, FL (Norland)	95	Miami
34	ATH	Devin Fuller	Westwood, NJ (Old Tappan)	97	UCLA	107	DT	Jarron Jones	Rochester, NJ (Aquinas)	95	Notre Dame
35	OT	John Theus	Jacksonville, FL (Bolles)	97	Georgia	108	WR	Jaquay Williams	Tyrone, GA (Sandy Creek)	95	Auburn
36	WDE	Channing Ward	Aberdeen, MS (Aberdeen)	97	Ole Miss	109	WR	Sterling Shepard	Oklahoma City, OK (Heritage Hall)	95	Oklahoma
37	ILB	Kwontie Moore	Norfolk, VA (Norfolk Christian)	97	Virginia	110	OT	Zach Banner	Lakewood, WA (Lakes)	95	USC
38	Pro	Zach Kline	Danville, CA (San Ramon Valley)	97	Cal	111	WDE	Denzel Devall	Bastrop, LA (Bastrop)	95	Alabama
39	ILB	Reggie Ragland	Madison, AL (Bob Jones)	97	Alabama	112	WR	Bryce Treggs	Bellflower, CA (St. John Bosco)	95	Cal
40	CB	Tracy Howard	Hollywood, FL (Miramar)	97	Miami	113	WR	Germone Hopper	Charlotte, NC (Phillip O Berry)	95	Clemson
41	RB	Mario Pender	Cape Coral, FL (Island Coast)	97	Florida State	114	ATH	Justin Thomas	Prattville, AL (Prattville)	95	Georgia Tech
42	WR	Chris Black	Jacksonville, FL (First Coast)	97	Alabama	115	S	LaDarrell McNeil	Dallas, TX (A. Maceo Smith)	95	Tennessee
43	DT	Ellis McCarthy	Monrovia, CA (Monrovia)	97	UCLA	116	ILB	James Ross	West Bloomfield, MI (St. Mary's Prep)	95	Michigan
44	WR	Thomas Johnson	Dallas, TX (Skyline)	96	Texas A&M	117	S	De'van Bogard	Cleveland, OH (Glenville)	95	Ohio State
45	RB	Mike Davis	Stone Mountain, GA (Stephenson)	96	S. Carolina	118	ATH	Corey Coleman	Richardson, TX (Pearce)	95	Baylor
46	CB	Kevon Seymour	Pasadena, CA (John Muir)	96	USC	119	TE	Kent Taylor	Land O'Lakes, FL (Land O'Lakes)	95	Florida
47	SDE	Leonard Williams	Daytona Beach, FL (Mainland)	96	USC	120	CB	A.J. Leggett	Miami, FL (South Miami)	95	Marshall
48	CB	Yuri Wright	Ramsey, NJ (Don Bosco)	96	Colordad	121	WR	Alton Howard	Orlando, FL (Edgewater)	95	Tennessee
49	WDE	Chris Casher	Mobile, AL (Faith Academy)	96	Florida State	122	APB	Keivarae Russell	Everett, WA (Mariner)	95	Notre Dame
50	CB	Tee Shepard	Fresno, CA (Washington Union)	96	Notre Dame	123	OLB	Leonard Floyd	Eastman, GA (Dodge County)	95	Georgia
51	DT	Ondre Pipkins	Kansas City, MO (Park Hill)	96	Michigan	124	CB	Wayne Morgan	Brooklyn, NY (Erasmus Hall)	95	Syracuse
52	ATH	Shaq Roland	Lexington, SC (Lexington)	96	S. Carolina	125	RB	Drew Harris	Exton, PA (Downington East)	95	Virginia Tech
53	ATH	Davonte Neal	Paradise Valley, AZ (Chapparal)	96	-----	126	OLB	Tyler Hayes	Thomasville, AL (Thomasville)	95	Alabama
54	OG	Dan Voltz	Barrington, IL (Barrington)	96	Wisconsin	127	WDE	Tyriq McCord	Tampa, FL (Jefferson)	95	Miami
55	DT	Carlos Watkins	Forest City, NC (Chase)	96	Clemson	128	WR	Cayleb Jones	Austin, TX (Austin)	95	Texas
56	WR	Amari Cooper	Miami, FL (Northwestern)	96	Alabama	129	OT	Michael Starts	Waco, TX (La Vega)	95	Texas Tech
57	RB	Todd Gurley	Tarboro, NC (Tarboro)	96	Georgia	130	RB	Barry Sanders Jr.	Oklahoma City, OK (Heritage Hall)	95	Stanford
58	WR	Darreus Rogers	Carson, CA (Carson)	96	USC	131	TE	Sean Price	Citra, FL (North Marion)	95	South Florida
59	ILB	Joe Bolden	Cincinnati, OH (Colerain)	96	Michigan	132	RB	Briante Dunn	Canton, OH (GlenOak)	95	Ohio State
60	OT	Jessamen Dunker	Boynton Beach, FL (Boynton Beach)	96	Florida	133	OT	Patrick Miller	Palm Beach Gardens, FL (Dwyer)	95	Auburn
61	RB	Rushel Shell	Alquippa, PA (Hopewell)	96	Pitt	134	DT	Nick James	Long Beach, MS (Long Beach)	95	Mississippi St.
62	OT	Kyle Kalis	Lakewood, OH (St. Edward)	96	Michigan	135	ILB	Quanzell Lambert	Sicklerville, NJ (Timber Creek)	95	Rutgers
63	DT	Jonathan Taylor	Millen, GA (Jenkins County)	96	Georgia	136	SDE	Jelani Hamilton	Fort Lauderdale, FL (St. Thomas Aquinas)	95	Miami
64	S	Alex Carter	Ashburn, VA (Briar Woods)	96	Stanford	137	S	Corey Thompson	Missouri City, TX (Elkins)	95	LSU
65	OT	Andrus Peat	Tempe, AZ (Corona Del Sol)	96	Stanford	138	ILB	Michael Rose	Kansas City, MO (Rockhurst)	95	Nebraska
66	CB	Geno Smith	Atlanta, GA (St. Pius X)	96	Alabama	139	SDE	Greg McMullen	Akron, OH (Archbishop Hoban)	95	Nebraska
67	OLB	Noor Davis	Leesburg, FL (Leesburg)	96	Stanford	140	WR	Darius Powe	Lakewood, CA (Lakewood)	95	Cal
68	OT	Joshua Garnett	Puyallup, WA (Puyallup)	96	Stanford	141	OT	Brandon Greene	Ellenwood, GA (Cedar Grove)	95	Alabama
69	OG	Curtis Riser	DeSoto, TX (DeSoto)	96	Texas	142	CB	Terry Richardson	Detroit, MI (Cass Tech)	95	Michigan
70	OLB	Jabari Ruffin	Downey, CA (Downey)	96	USC	143	OT	Brock Stadnik	Greensboro, NC (Western Guilford)	95	S. Carolina
71	OT	Jordan Diamond	Chicago, IL (Simeon)	96	Auburn	144	CB	Raymond Ford	Gardena, CA (Junipero Serra)	95	Cal
72	OT	Erik Magnuson	Encinitas, CA (La Costa Canyon)	96	Michigan	145	OT	Ronnie Stanley	Las Vegas, NV (Bishop Gorman)	95	Notre Dame
73	SDE	Chris Wormley	Toledo, OH (Whitmer)	96	Michigan	146	ILB	Scott Starr	Norco, CA (Norco)	95	USC

RK	POS	NAME	HOMETOWN (SCHOOL)	RATING	COMMIT	RK	POS	NAME	HOMETOWN (SCHOOL)	RATING	COMMIT
147	OT	Chris Muller	Boyetown, PA (Boyetown)	95	Rutgers	198	WDE	Tom Strobel	Mentor, OH (Mentor)	93	Michigan
148	SDE	Hassan Ridgeway	Mansfield, TX (Mansfield)	94	Texas	199	WR	Amara Darboh	W. Des Moines, IA (Dowling Cath.)	93	Michigan
149	WR	Gabriel Marks	Los Angeles, CA (Venice)	94	Washington St.	200	DT	Jordan Watkins	Atlanta, GA (Woodward Acad.)	93	Stanford
150	OLB	Dillon Lee	Buford, GA (Buford)	94	Alabama	201	C	Mike Matthews	Missouri City, TX (Elkins)	93	Texas A&M
151	OLB	Jamal Marcus	Durham, NC (Hillside)	94	Ohio State	202	OG	D.J. Reader	Greensboro, SC (Grimsley)	93	Clemson
152	S	Deon Bush	Miami, FL (Columbus)	94	Miami	203	S	Travis Blanks	Tallahassee, FL (N. FL Christian)	93	Clemson
153	WR	Durron Neal	Saint Louis, MO (DeSmet)	94	Oklahoma	204	S	Marcus Maye	Melbourne, FL (Holy Trinity)	93	Florida
154	Pro	Connor Brewer	Pradise Valley, AZ (Chaparral)	94	Texas	205	OLB	Cassanova McKinzy	Birmingham, AL (Woodlawn)	93	Auburn
155	SDE	Devonte Fields	Arlington, TX (Martin)	94	TCU	206	OLB	Peter Jinks	Dallas, TX (Skyline)	93	Texas
156	OT	Javarius Leamon	Woodruff, SC (Woodruff)	94	S Carolina St.	207	SDE	Luke Kaumatule	Honolulu, HI (Punahou)	93	Stanford
157	DT	Tyler Nero	Atmore, AL (Escambia County)	94	Auburn	208	OLB	Jeremi Powell	Largo, FL (Pinellas Park)	93	Florida
158	OT	Jerald Hawkins	Baldwin, LA (West St. Mary)	94	LSU	209	OLB	Royce Jenkins-Stone	Detroit, MI (Cass Tech)	93	Michigan
159	WDE	Charles Tapper	Baltimore, MD (BC College)	94	Oklahoma	210	RB	I'Tavius Mathers	Murfreesboro, TN (Blackman)	93	Ole Miss
160	WR	Joel Caleb	Midlothian, VA (Clover Hill)	94	Virginia Tech	211	OG	Jeremy Ward	Pottsville, AR (Pottsville)	93	Arkansas
161	OLB	Otha Peters	Covington, LA (Covington)	94	Arkansas	212	WR	Drac Bowles	Jackson, TN (Jackson Christian)	93	Tennessee
162	OLB	Lamar Louis	Breaux Bridge, LA (Breaux Bridge)	94	LSU	213	DT	Omari Phillips	Venice, FL (Venice)	93	Florida
163	ATH	DJ Foster	Scottsdale, AZ (Saguaro)	94	Arizona St.	214	SDE	Quintez Williams	Tyrone, GA (Sandy Creek)	93	Florida
164	OG	Evan Boehm	Lee's Summit, MO (Lee's Summit)	94	Michigan	215	OLB	Phillip Williamson	Durham, NC (C.E. Jordan)	93	N. Carolina
165	OG	Vadal Alexander	Buford, GA (Buford)	94	LSU	216	WR	Canaan Severin	Worcester, MA (Worcester Acad.)	93	Virginia
166	WDE	Troy Hinds	Kaysville, UT (Davis)	94	BYU	217	OT	JJ Denman	Fairless Hills, PA (Pennsbury)	93	Rutgers
167	TE	Taylor McNamara	San Diego, CA (Westview)	94	Oklahoma	218	RB	Jonathan Williams	Allen, TX (Allen)	93	Arkansas
168	S	P.J. Williams	Ocala, FL (Vanguard)	94	Florida State	219	TE	Christo Kourtzidis	Orange, CA (Lutheran)	93	Florida State
169	APB	Dennis Norfleet	Detroit, MI (King)	94	Michigan	220	OT	Freddie Tagaloa	Richmond, CA (Salesian)	93	Cal
170	OG	Jordan Simmons	Encino, CA (Crespi Carmelite)	94	USC	221	ATH	Edward Pope	Carthage, TX (Carthage)	93	Texas A&M
171	RB	Wes Brown	Olney, MD (Good Counsel)	94	Maryland	222	DT	Dalvon Stuckey	Defuniak Springs, FL (Walton)	93	Florida State
172	ATH	Dominique Wheeler	Crockett, TX (Crockett)	4	Texas Tech	223	WR	Randall Goforth	Long Beach, CA (Poly)	93	UCLA
173	OLB	Joshua Perry	Lewis Center, OH (Olentangy)	94	Ohio State	224	OT	Kyle Dodson	Cleveland, OH (Cleveland Hts)	93	Ohio State
174	OLB	Camren Williams	West Roxbury, MA (Catholic Mem.)	94	Ohio State	225	OT	Greg Pyke	Baltimore, MD (Boys' Latin School)	93	Georgia
175	ATH	Orlando Thomas	Copperas Cove, TX (Copperas Cove)	94	Texas	226	OLB	Deion Jones	New Orleans, LA (Jesuit)	93	LSU
176	Dual	Matt Davis	Houston, TX (Klein Forest)	94	Texas A&M	227	CB	Chaz Elder	Atlanta, GA (Banneker)	93	S. Carolina
177	OLB	David Perkins	South Bend, IN (Washington)	94	Ohio State	228	WR	Ricardo Louis	Miami Beach, FL (Miami Beach)	93	Auburn
178	WR	Jason Croom	Norcross, GA (Norcross)	94	Tennessee	229	DT	Courtney Wynn	Norfolk, VA (Norfolk Christian)	93	Virginia
179	DT	Quay Evans	Morton, MS (Morton)	94	Mississippi St.	230	OLB	Jared Afalava	Pleasant Grove, UT (Bingham)	93	Nebraska
180	OLB	Vince Biegel	Wisconsin Rapids, WI (Lincoln)	94	Wisconsin	231	S	Reggie Daniels	Chandler, AZ (Hamilton)	93	Oregon
181	DT	Tommy Schutt	Glen Ellyn, IL (Glenbard West)	94	Ohio State	232	WR	Quinshad Davis	Gaffney, SC (Gaffney)	92	N. Carolina
182	WR	Jaydon Mckens	Los Angeles, CA (Dorsey)	94	Washington	233	OLB	Abner Logan	Brookline, MA (Dexter School)	92	Maryland
183	SDE	Mike Moore	Hyattsville, MD (DeMatha Catholic)	94	Virginia	234	ILB	Aaron Porter	La Habra, CA (La Habra)	92	UCLA
184	TE	Colin Thompson	Pennsburg, PA (Archbishop Wood)	94	Florida	235	WR	Anthony Cooper	Virginia Beach, VA (Bayside)	92	Virginia
185	OLB	Denotay McManus	Baltimore, MD (Dunbar)	94	West Virginia	236	OLB	Lorenzo Phillips	Patterson, LA (Patterson)	92	LSU
186	WDE	Se'Von Pittman	Canton, OH (McKinley)	94	Ohio State	237	RB	Jovon Robinson	Memphis, TN (Wooddale)	92	Auburn
187	OLB	Deon Clarke	Chesterfield, VA (Bird)	94	Virginia Tech	238	WR	Jordan Payton	Thousand Oaks, CA (Oaks Christian)	92	UCLA
188	TE	John Thomas	Bossier City, LA (Airline)	94	LSU	239	RB	Warren Ball	Columbus, OH (St. Francis De Sales)	92	Ohio State
189	DT	Korren Kirven	Lynchburg, VA (Brookville)	94	Alabama	240	CB	Dwayne Thomas	New Orleans, LA (O.P. Walker)	92	LSU
190	OG	Graham Shuler	Brentwood, TN (Brentwood Acad)	94	Stanford	241	WR	Leonte Carro	Ramsey, NJ (Don Bosco)	92	Rutgers
191	WR	Jody Fuller	Monroe, NC (Sun Valley)	94	S. Carolina	242	CB	Joshua Holsey	Fairburn, GA (Creekside)	92	Auburn
192	WR	Kiante Griffin	Carrollton, TX (Hebron)	93	Baylor	243	OT	Camrhon Hughes	Harker Heights, TX (Harker Hts)	92	Texas
193	RB	Matt Jones	Seffner, FL (Armwood)	93	Florida	244	CB	Ishamel Adams	Thousand Oaks, CA (Oaks Christian)	92	UCLA
194	DT	Jamil Pollard	Westville, NJ (West Deptford)	93	Penn State	245	OG	Zach Hemmilla	Chandler, AZ (Chandler)	92	Arizona
195	DT	John Atkins	Thompson, GA (Thompson)	93	Georgia	246	WR	Eugene Lewis	Plymouth, PA (Wyo. Valley W)	92	Penn State
196	Pro	Ford Childress	Houston, TX (The Kinkaid School)	93	West Virginia	247	ILB	Salamo Fiso	Long Beach, CA (Long Beach Poly)	92	Arizona State
197	WDE	Ken Ekanem	Clifton, VA (Centreville)	93	Virginia Tech						

EXPLAINING THE RANKINGS

At 247Sports, each recruit that we evaluate will be assigned a numerical rating as well as a star rating. The rankings are determined by our recruiting analysts after countless hours of personal observations, film evaluation and input from our network of scouts. Players are ranked by position, grouped qualitatively with a star ranking and given a numerical ranking based on their future potential. The explanation for the numerical rankings is below.

110-101 = A player ranked in this range is a "franchise player." He is one of the best to come along in years - if not decades (LeBron James, Adrian Peterson). Odds of having a player in this category every year is slim. This prospect has "can't miss" talent.

100-98 = Five-star prospect. One of the

top 25 or so prospects in the nation. Player has excellent pro potential, and should emerge as one of the best players in the country before his college career ends.

97-90 = Four-star prospect. Prospect will be an impact-player for his college team. All-America candidate who displays pro potential. Typically one of the top 300 players in the nation.

89-80 = Three-star prospect. These are the players who will develop into reliable starters for the college teams. They are among the best players in their region of the country, and are generally among the top 750 players in the nation.

79-below = Two-star prospect. These players make up the bulk of Division I rosters. They may have little pro potential, are likely to become role players for their respective schools or not enough is known about the prospect to rank them accurately.

2012 Recruiting Class

SCHOLARSHIP SIGNEES

Name (247Sports ranking)	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School/Junior College
Jared Afalava ★★★★★ (93)	LB	6-3	215	South Jordan, Utah	Bingham HS
LeRoy Alexander ★★ (75)	ATH	6-2	190	Toledo, Ohio	Whitmer HS
Zaire Anderson ★★ (87)	LB	6-1	220	Philadelphia, Pa.	Frankford HS/Riverside CC
Tommy Armstrong ★★ (86)	QB	6-2	210	Cibola, Texas	Steele HS
Thomas Brown ★★ (88)	LB	6-2	210	Gardena, Calif.	Junipero Serra HS
Sam Cotton ★★ (81)	TE	6-4	240	Lincoln, Neb.	Southeast HS
Imani Cross ★★ (87)	RB	6-1	220	Gainesville, Ga.	North Hall HS
Aaron Curry ★★ (86)	DT	6-3	275	Keller, Texas	Fossil Ridge HS
Greg McMullen ★★★★★ (95)	DE	6-5	255	Akron, Ohio	Hoban HS
Alonzo Moore ★★ (89)	ATH	6-2	170	Winnfield, La.	Winnfield Senior HS
Avery Moss ★★★★★ (86)	DE	6-4	245	Tempe, Ariz.	Corona Del Sol HS
Michael Rose ★★★★★ (95)	LB	6-0	230	Kansas City, Mo.	Rockhurst HS
Mohammed Seisay* ★★★★★ (93)	DB	6-2	200	Springfield, Va.	West Springfield HS/Eastern Arizona JC
Paul Thurston ★★★★★ (92)	OL	6-5	275	Arvada, Colo.	Arvada West HS
Vincent Valentine ★★ (86)	DT	6-3	300	Edwardsville, Ill.	Edwardsville HS
Jordan Westerkamp ★★★★★ (90)	WR	6-2	195	Lombard, Ill.	Montini Catholic HS
Corey Whitaker ★★ (83)	OL	6-5	270	Murrieta, Calif.	Vista Murrieta HS

WALK-ON COMMITS

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown	High School/Junior College
Jared Blum	DE/TE	6-4	230	Gretna, Neb.	Gretna HS
Cole Chvatal	WR	5-11	175	Wahoo, Neb.	Bishop Neumann HS
Carson Collins	FB	5-10	220	Omaha, Neb.	Burke HS
Ross Dzuris	DE/TE	6-3	225	Plattsmouth, Neb.	Plattsmouth HS
Sam Foltz	ATH	6-2	190	Grand Island, Neb.	Grand Island HS
Trey Foster	TE	6-2	230	Lincoln, Neb.	Southeast HS
Ryker Fyfe	QB	6-3	195	Grand Island, Neb.	Grand Island HS
Taylor Hoffman	LB	6-0	200	Oakland, Neb.	Oakland-Craig HS
Andy Janovich	FB	6-1	215	Gretna, Neb.	Gretna HS
Garret Johns	OL	6-1	275	Aurora, Neb.	Aurora HS
Spencer Lindsay	PK	5-10	195	Kearney, Neb.	Kearney HS
Mitch McCann	LB	6-1	225	Omaha, Neb.	Burke HS
Graham Nabity	RB	6-1	205	Omaha, Neb.	Elkhorn HS
Jordan Nelson	RB	5-8	175	Omaha, Neb.	Burke HS
Robby Painter	OL	6-6	270	Centennial, Colo.	Grandview HS
Brandon Reilly	WR	6-2	180	Lincoln, Neb.	Southwest HS
Brad Simpson	LB	6-0	195	Omaha, Neb.	Ralston HS
Dylan Utter	OL	6-2	300	Papillion, Neb.	Papillion-LaVista HS



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GUARD DYLAN TALLEY IS HOISTED IN THE AIR BY NEBRASKA FANS AT THE BOB DEVANEY SPORTS CENTER AFTER THE CORNHUSKERS UPSET NO. 11 INDIANA, 70-69. PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK



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with a \$15,0



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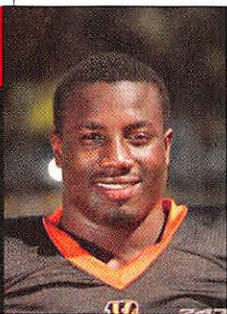
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247
RATING
87



Zaire Anderson LB

6-1 | 220 | RIVERSIDE CC, FRANKFORD HS, PHILADELPHIA PENN



A junior college signee at a position of need,

Zaire Anderson will need to step on campus ready to play this summer.

Anderson is physical against the run and should be able to help Nebraska immediately next fall. He starred on a tough defense at Riverside (Calif.) Community College, finishing his 2011 campaign with 95 tackles, 19 tackles for a loss and 6.5 sacks. He also broke

Riverside where he recorded 92 tackles, 17 for loss and nine sacks to earn all-conference honors. A native of Philadelphia, Anderson starred at Frankford High School before heading west to start his college career.

Credit former Nebraska defensive coordinator Carl Pelini with finding Anderson before other schools. When Nebraska fans see a JUCO transfer linebacker, most will likely think of Lavonte David. While Anderson might not be able to equal David's immediate

impact, he is being brought in to play right away and should be able to earn plenty of playing time. We were impressed with Anderson's toughness against the run, which will be a big asset

for the Huskers in the Big Ten next season. When Pelini was recruiting Anderson, he compared the linebacker's style of play to David. While it could have just been a recruiting line, Nebraska has had a track record of getting the most from its junior college transfers, and will need Anderson to be ready to play when he arrives in Lincoln.

Anderson will graduate from Riverside in February and join the program in May for the first summer session.

by Michael Bruntz

"I was impressed with him overall. He's not exceptional in one area, but he seemed to do a lot of things well in terms of coverage, tackling and reading the play."

up two passes and forced two fumbles. He was named MVP of the Golden State Bowl, as Riverside defeated Saddleback Junior College 31-14, finishing the game with 12 tackles, 3.5 sacks and forced two fumbles in the bowl game. The bowl game MVP wasn't the only accolade Anderson picked up this season. He was also named Defensive Player of the Year by the National Division East Conference coaches.

That followed a breakout season in his first season at

STRENGTH

Anderson is quick to fill the line gaps against the run and hits like a load of bricks when he gets there. An athletic linebacker, he has a nose for the football.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

How quickly can Anderson adjust to Nebraska's defensive scheme? The coaches are expecting a lot, and he'll need to be ready to go.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Nebraska, Texas Tech

TOP 3 SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, Texas Tech, Mississippi State

RECRUITED BY

Carl Pelini, Ross Els

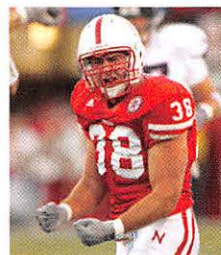
KEY NUMBER

187

Tackles for Anderson in his two seasons of junior college play

REMINDS US OF Barrett Ruud

Ruud and Anderson are both solid players against the run and sure tacklers on film. We'll see if that holds when Anderson gets to Lincoln.



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE Alonzo Whaley

Nebraska needs Anderson to be ready to go, and he'll be battling with Whaley and others for snaps at the linebacker position.

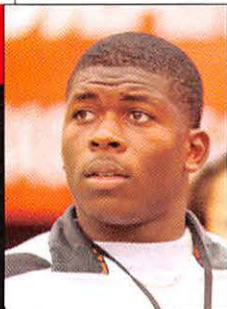


RANKINGS

052

NATIONAL

247
RATING
86



Tommy Armstrong QB

6-2 | 210 | STEELE HS, CIBOLO, TEXAS



Many wondered how quarterback Tommy Armstrong

would fare in his senior season without top running back Malcolm Brown, who ended up at Texas, holding the attention of opposing defenses. Well, Armstrong showed he's perfectly capable of carrying an offense himself, leading Steele High School to the Texas 5A title game.

Nebraska will be getting the definition of a dual-threat

well with the direction he sees Nebraska's offense going. Armstrong has been a winner during his high school career, and worked hard on his mechanics as a senior, shortening his throwing motion and working on decision-making. Several top programs in Texas kicked the tires on Armstrong late in the recruiting process, including Texas after seeing what he did on the field as a senior. For example, in the state quarterfinals, Armstrong threw for 279 yards and three touchdowns, then a week later he ran for 139 yards and four touchdowns in the

state semifinals.

One of the biggest emphases for Armstrong as a senior was decision-making, which showed up in the fact that he threw just two interceptions, and none until the state title game as a senior.

Given the somewhat crowded

picture at quarterback for Nebraska, Armstrong will likely have a redshirt season ahead of him to get comfortable with Nebraska's offense, but should be ready to compete for playing time sooner than later.

Beck spent time frequently in Texas with Armstrong and seems to feel confident in Armstrong's ability to run his offense.

by Michael Bruntz

STEELE COACH MIKE JINKS

"The one thing I'll say about Tommy is that I don't think he's even scratched the surface of his ability. Every little thing we talked to him about, like pocket presence, you go back and watch the film after we talk and he really takes all of that coaching to heart."

quarterback when Armstrong arrives in Lincoln this summer. Armstrong ran for 1,281 yards and 16 touchdowns and threw for 1,945 yards, 29 touchdowns and two interceptions in 2011, running an offense similar to what he'll be asked to do as a signalcaller in Lincoln.

Offensive coordinator Tim Beck made it clear during Armstrong's recruitment that he saw the signalcaller fitting in

STRENGTH

Decision-making. He's talented athletically, but what sets Armstrong apart is the way he takes care of the football, particularly under stress.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

Like most high school quarterbacks, he needs to get comfortable working under center and out of the shotgun.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Nebraska, Southern Mississippi

TOP 3 SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, Southern Mississippi

RECRUITED BY

Tim Beck

KEY NUMBER

59

Armstrong's completion percentage his senior season.

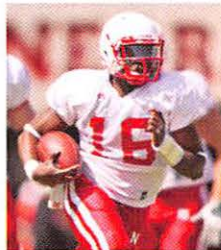
REMINDS US OF Brion Carnes

Armstrong is a true dual-threat quarterback and his elusiveness when he's outside the pocket is reminiscent of what Carnes showed as a high school senior.



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE Brion Carnes

It's going to take Armstrong time to learn the intricacies of Nebraska's offense, but he will be in competition for the backup spot sooner than later.



RANKINGS

NATIONAL

15
DUAL QB

111
TEXAS

247
RATING
88



Thomas Brown LB

6-2 | 210 | JUNIPERO SERRA HS, GARDENA, CA



Thomas Brown brings an impressive resume from southern California to Lincoln. Brown helped lead Serra High School to the Central Coast Section Division I football title. Brown transferred to Serra before his senior season and quickly became a standout on a talented defense that also included Nebraska cornerback target Raymond Ford.

comfortable in pass coverage, Brown is a strong candidate to redshirt in his first season in Lincoln, but has the frame to add more weight and be the Big Ten-style linebacker Nebraska will need to hang in the new league.

Brown initially committed to Arizona State before switching to Nebraska a few days later. He saw a depth situation where he could play quickly, and at 6-foot-2, Brown has the frame to add more weight in the future and could start his career at

either inside or outside linebacker. Nebraska's strength and conditioning program was actually a big selling point for Brown. The linebacker is spending his offseason working

out and trying to get bigger for the physical Big Ten style of football.

Maybe more importantly, Brown has the intangibles that will get him on the field. Serra is a powerhouse program near Los Angeles and the competition in that area is among the best in the state of California. He helped Serra to an 11-2 record last season and understands what it takes to succeed at a high level.

by Michael Bruntz

STRENGTH

A physical defender, Brown has above-average pass coverage skills for a player his age.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

Needs to get bigger in the weight room before seeing the field at Nebraska.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Nebraska, Arizona State

TOP 3 SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, Arizona State, Southern Methodist

RECRUITED BY

Carl Pelini, Rich Fisher, Ross Els

KEY NUMBER

173 Combined tackles Brown had during his high school career

REMINDS US OF Will Compton

Both Brown and Compton are 6-foot-2 and tough against the run.



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE Max Pirman

Brown will likely need a redshirt year, but will be ready to compete with Pirman and the other linebackers in 2013



RANKINGS

NATIONAL

18

ILB

48

CALIFORNIA

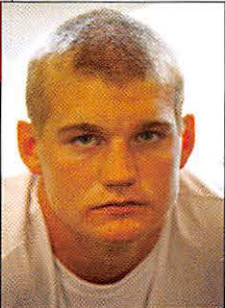
247SPORTS ANALYST JUSTIN HOPKINS

"What I like about him is that he finds the football. He has a great nose for the football and isn't afraid to put a hit on somebody. As a linebacker, he has really good coverage ability as well."

Brown totaled 77 tackles, 2.5 sacks and two pass breakups as a senior, and likely would have received more recruiting attention had he not transferred. Before playing at Serra, Brown starred at St. Anthony High School where he racked up 96 tackles, and five sacks in 2010.

One of the priorities for Nebraska in the 2012 recruiting class was finding depth at linebacker, and Brown will certainly help there. A physical defender who is also

247
RATING
86



Sam Cotton TE

6-4 | 240 | LINCOLN SOUTHEAST HS, LINCOLN, NE



Sam Cotton's senior year got off to a good

start when the tight end from Lincoln Southeast earned a scholarship offer at Nebraska's summer camp in June 2011.

Cotton had been primarily a blocking tight end during his junior season and showed marked improvement in route running. His senior season only got better from there as he led Lincoln Southeast to the Nebraska Class A State

need for Nebraska in the 2012 class, and Cotton represents the only scholarship tight end taken in the class, and the only in-state scholarship recruit.

Overlooked by many schools because of his numerous connections to Nebraska, Cotton flourished as a blocker and receiver. Southeast was primarily a power-run team, but effectively featured Cotton in the playaction passing game. For his efforts, Cotton was named an honorary captain of the Omaha World-Herald's All-Nebraska team.

Cotton is the latest member of his family to pass through the Nebraska program, following his father Barney, the offensive line coach, and brothers Ben, a senior tight end, and Jake a sophomore offensive guard. Ben and Sam worked hard together over the summer to

improve their route running and it showed for Sam in his senior season. He possesses a big frame and could likely grow to be as big as Ben, who checked in at 255 pounds last season and became almost like a sixth offensive lineman because of his blocking prowess. The feeling is that Sam could end up playing the same way.

by Michael Bruntz

Football Championship in November. He led the Knights to an 12-1 record, capped by a 21-9 win over Omaha Burke in the title game where Cotton caught a 34-yard touchdown pass. Cotton finished his season with 23 catches for 300 yards and seven touchdown catches, and also started for the Knights at defensive end.

Tight end was a position of

STRENGTH

Cotton is a physical player and talented run blocker on the edge of the line. Lincoln Southeast ran much of its power sets behind Cotton in 2011.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

Cotton showed improvement as a pass catcher in his senior season and will need to continue to work on route running to be a complete tight end.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Nebraska

TOP 3 SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, Tulsa, Ohio

RECRUITED BY

Barney Cotton

KEY NUMBER

22 Wins Lincoln Southeast posted in Cotton's last two seasons

REMINDS US OF Ben Cotton

An obvious choice, but the brothers have similar frames and skill sets coming out of high school, though Sam's ceiling seems higher.



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE David Sutton

Cotton seems headed for a redshirt year in 2012 given Nebraska's depth at the position, but he and Sutton, who were high school teammates at Lincoln Southeast, will be battling for playing time in 2013.



RANKINGS

--- -- --

NATIONAL

53

TE

003

NEBRASKA

247
RATING
87



Imani Cross

RB

6-1 | 220 | NORTH HALL HS, GAINESVILLE, GA



Nebraska went out late in the recruiting cycle

seeking a big, bruising back and found that in Georgia running back Imani Cross.

Initially a Tennessee commit until a mutual departure occurred in early December, Cross brings a unique mix of speed and power not currently found on Nebraska's roster. The Georgia product ran for 1,698 yards and 24 touchdowns as

88 tackles at linebacker, which earned him second-team Class AAA all-state honors in Georgia. Cross comes to Nebraska as the first recruit from Georgia since Alfonzo Dennard signed with Nebraska in 2008. Cross was selected to play in the International Bowl in Austin, Texas, in February.

Look for Cross to work well between the tackles and to give Nebraska a Big Ten style of running back in the future. His large frame allows the ball carrier

to dole out as much punishment as he takes. However, don't mistake Cross' size for being slow. During practices at the International Bowl, Cross stood out among the other running backs for

the quickness he showed getting outside the tackle and around the corner. Coupled with his soft hands and vision, this ball carrier is a complete package.

Nebraska has a stable of smallish, quick running backs, and Cross seems like he can come in and be the change of pace running back who gets to work around the goal line and on third and short.

by Michael Bruntz

NORTH HALL COACH BOB CHRISTMAS

"He possesses extremely good movement and he can run kids over. Great hands he can catch it out of the backfield. Our screen game was a big part of things that we did. He's a complete total package."

a senior and gives Nebraska a legitimate short-yardage back for the first time since Quentin Castille. Credit Nebraska running backs coach Ron Brown with establishing a quick rapport with Cross and his family, as Nebraska came into the picture late and held off Kentucky for Cross' services.

As a senior, Cross averaged nearly nine yards per carry and excelled on defense, totaling

STRENGTH

Cross is a big, bruising back who is deceptively quick and doesn't waste energy. He can handle short-yardage, but is athletic enough to wear down defenses late in games.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

Cross didn't play against the top competition in Georgia, so he'll have to adjust to a higher-level of football.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Tennessee, Nebraska, East Carolina, Kentucky

TOP 3 SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, Kentucky, East Carolina

RECRUITED BY

Ron Brown

KEY NUMBER

3,715 Total yards over three years for Cross, despite missing half his junior year to injury

REMINDS US OF Quentin Castille

Both are big-bodied backs who can wear down opponents. Cross has the agility to make people miss in space.



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE Mike Marrow

Coaches said Marrow is set to be a hybrid fullback-running back. Could Cross be the answer in short-yardage situations?



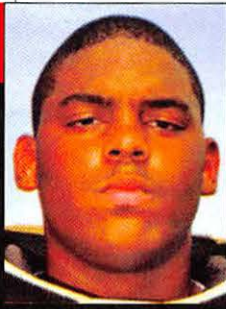
RANKINGS

NATIONAL

27
RB

40
GEORGIA

247
RATING
86



Aaron Curry

6-3 | 275 | FOSSIL RIDGE HS, KELLER, TEXAS

DT



Among Nebraska's biggest positions of need in the

2012 class was defensive tackle, and bolstered their ranks with Aaron Curry, who announced on signing day morning his intentions to sign with Nebraska.

Curry was a recruit coveted by many programs throughout the country and brings quickness and toughness to the position. A former basketball player, Curry possesses quick feet and toughness that caught the attention of recruiters. As a senior,

Curry and secured an official visit in January from the defensive tackle. Curry's situation became something of a numbers game, however. With Nebraska expected to sign a smaller class, Curry's scholarship offer was contingent upon recruits at other positions deciding to go elsewhere, but ultimately there was enough room in the class for the rising defensive tackle.

Schools like what Curry brings to the table in terms of his quickness and ability to get upfield. A defensive lineman more akin height-wise to what Nebraska currently has on its roster in

Thad Randle and Chase Rome.

Curry has quick feet, carrying over strong footwork from his days of playing basketball. The footwork helps the defensive tackle make clean first steps and helps him with his pass rushing. Look for Curry to take a redshirt in his freshman year and take advantage

of Nebraska's strength and conditioning program. The defensive tackle has the potential to be a strong addition to Nebraska's rotation and he has hopes of playing early, but like most young defensive linemen will likely end up redshirting.

Curry's father, Aaron Sr., was a standout basketball player at Oklahoma and was drafted by the New Jersey Nets.

by Michael Bruntz

STRENGTH

Quickness. A former basketball player, Curry has quick feet that helps him get up the field after quarterbacks.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

Slightly undersized right now, Curry is still growing and will need to add bulk to withstand the pounding on the interior of a Big Ten defensive line.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Nebraska, Boise State, Iowa, Missouri, TCU

TOP 3 SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, Iowa, TCU

RECRUITED BY

Rick Kaczinski

KEY NUMBER

275 Curry's current weight, which he'll have to add to before seeing the field at Nebraska.

REMINDS US OF Chase Rome

Curry and Rome are both quick off the ball and have high motors from the defensive tackle position. Both are 6-foot-3 and deceptively fast and physical for their size.



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE Jay Guy

Both are Texas defensive linemen, and though Guy has impressed in scout team action, Curry could be battling for backup snaps sooner than later.



RANKINGS

NATIONAL

57
DT

127
TEXAS

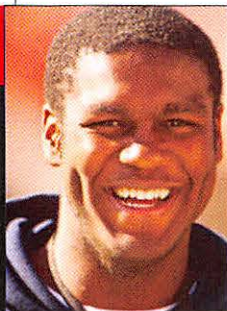
247Sports Analyst Gerry Hamilton

"I think he's a guy who steadily got better in high school ball. He's a guy whose best football is still ahead of him. He's naturally a pretty strong kid, an intelligent kid. His body has really started to develop in the last year and he's going to develop into a solid football player."

Curry made 59 tackles, three sacks and caused one fumble. He recorded 68 total tackles and four sacks as a junior. Iowa had been his favorite school, but Nebraska was able to pull ahead thanks in part to new defensive line coach Rick Kaczinski, who had recruited Curry when he coached at Iowa.

When Kaczinski was officially hired in December, he immediately got to work recruiting

247
RATING
95



Greg McMullen DE

6-5 | 255 | ARCHBISHOP HOBAN HS, AKRON, OH



A four-year varsity player for Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron, Greg McMullen established himself as a big-time player early in his high school career.

A dominating defensive end with unique quickness for his size, McMullen totaled 78 tackles, 12.5 sacks and 14 tackles during his senior season en route to earning North Coast

some of the top talent at the Semper Fidelis All-American game in January, McMullen stood out for his constant motor and explosiveness when getting after the quarterback. McMullen's recruitment also showed the importance of getting a recruit on campus for the Spring Game. McMullen bought into Nebraska early and committed to the Huskers in late-June and stuck with the Huskers despite late interest from a number of schools.

A confident player, McMullen

will face a crowded depth chart at defense end, but his mix of size and speed make him an intriguing talent on the end for Nebraska, which struggled to get after the quarterback in 2011. McMullen told reporters after signing day that

he weighed nearly 290 pounds, which raises the question of whether he'll be able to also slide inside to defensive tackle in obvious passing situations.

McMullen is the kind of talent that will be a game-changer during his career, as well as being an important piece to getting the Nebraska's defense adjusted to the style of play in the Big Ten and back on track.

by Michael Bruntz

STRENGTH

McMullen is an elite pass rusher and is deceptively quick. His size and speed will be a benefit in the Big Ten where defensive ends must pass rush and defend the run.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

McMullen raised eyebrows when he said he weighed almost 290 around signing day. That will be something to watch for when he arrives on campus.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Nebraska

TOP 3 SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, Ohio State, Notre Dame

RECRUITED BY

John Papuchis

KEY NUMBER

44.5 Sacks McMullen recorded during his four years in high school.

REMINDS US OF Adam Carriker

Carriker and McMullen are both big, fast defensive ends who played like physical freaks. Carriker eventually moved to defensive tackle in the NFL. Is that where McMullen's future rests?



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE Donovan Vestal

The depth chart is crowded, but McMullen has the talent to immediately compete with Vestal and Walker Ashburn, who have yet to establish themselves on the field.



RANKINGS

139
NATIONAL

06
SDE

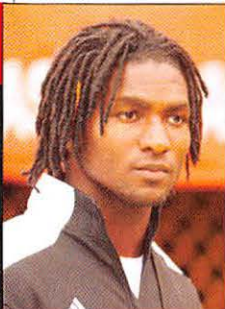
08
OHIO

"I wish that the motor was running all the time, but the other thing we have to remember, is that in high school Greg was double or triple teamed most of the time. At times it might not look like he was going as hard as he did the previous play, but in all honesty that's because of the hard work he put in."

Blue Division Player-of-the-Year honors despite routinely being double and triple teamed by opponents.

McMullen totaled 11.5 sacks as a sophomore, 12.5 sacks as a junior and showed he could be strong against both the run and the pass. With McMullen, Nebraska is getting a confident, game-changer at defensive end who has the size to thrive on a Big Ten defensive line. Against

247
RATING
86



Alonzo Moore

ATH



6-2 | 170 | WINNFIELD SENIOR HS, WINNFIELD, LA

Maybe the most difficult part for Alonzo

Moore when he gets to campus this summer will be settling on a position.

That's because Moore, an athlete from Winnfield, La., excelled at a number of positions at Winnfield High School. At various times during his career, Moore played quarterback, wide receiver, defensive back and even

Louisiana 2A state finals this fall. As a junior, Moore caught 49 passes for 1,246 yards and 17 touchdowns, while also rushing 53 times for 591 yards and nine touchdowns.

Moore first visited Lincoln over the summer for a Nebraska quarterback camp and has said that he would like to get a shot at quarterback, though he'll likely end up at defensive back in Lincoln.

Throughout his career, he was the go-to player for

Winnfield. When the team needed a big play on offense, they found a way to get the ball in his hands. When it needed a big kick return, Moore fielded the punt. And even when the team needed a big stop on defense, he was playing cornerback.

Nebraska missed on many of its defensive back targets in the 2012 class, and getting a talented athlete like Moore to commit will help to gloss over those misses. Moore could also be a factor on special teams after returning three kicks for touchdowns during his senior season.

by Michael Bruntz

WINNFIELD COACH ANDY PYLES

"What Nebraska does on offense, we ran some similar stuff his freshman and sophomore year, when he went through some of the stuff with them, it wasn't a foreign language to him. He's a guy we just draw in the dirt to utilize ways to get the ball in his hands."

returned kicks.

Moore finished with 1,347 yards rushing and 22 touchdowns in his senior season. The athlete also excelled as a kick returner and even played some defensive back en route to being honored as the Class 2A Offensive Player of the Year in Louisiana, and leading Winnfield to the

STRENGTH

Moore is a playmaker. As both a wide receiver and a defensive back, he showed a knack getting the ball, and then making a play because of his speed.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

Moore may not have a true position, which may slow his chances of getting on the field early in his career. Also, how will he adjust from Class 2A in Louisiana to college football.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Nebraska, Louisiana Tech, Mississippi State

TOP 3 SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, Louisiana Tech, Northwestern (La.) State

RECRUITED BY

Corey Raymond

KEY NUMBER

20 Points per game Moore averaged as a junior on the basketball court.

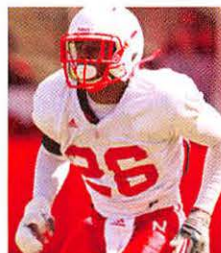
REMINDS US OF Bobby Newcombe

Moore shares Newcombe's versatility and potential to make an impact at any number of positions and on special teams.



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE Harvey Jackson

Several young defensive backs have yet to distinguish themselves, and Moore could get in the mix with those young guys on defense.



RANKINGS

--- --- ---

NATIONAL

50

WR

016

LOUISIANA

247
RATING
86



Avery Moss

DE



6-4 | 245 | CORONA DEL SOL HS, TEMPE, ARIZ

Current
Husker
defensive
tackle

Todd Peat

Jr. told his cousin Avery Moss before Moss' junior year that if he started playing football, he guaranteed that he was talented enough to earn a division I scholarship offer.

Moss turned his cousin into a bit of a prophet, signing with the Huskers in February after turning down offers from

tackles and recorded 2.5 sacks to earn all-region honors.

Moss was selected to play in the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl in January, where he committed to Nebraska during the game. Prior to playing football, Moss was known more for his basketball skills, and received recruiting interest from a number of mid-major programs on the West Coast.

The cousin of current Husker Todd Peat Jr., and Nebraska target Andrus Peat, Moss is an

intriguing prospect who has plenty of potential to turn into a contributor for Nebraska down the road. Moss possesses big hands, and exceptional athleticism, but will likely need a redshirt season

to add weight and upper-body strength in the Nebraska weight program. Bo Pelini's staff likes having football players who have played other sports, and basketball has helped Moss develop quick hands and feet. Moss will likely spend plenty of time with new Nebraska defensive line coach Rick Kaczynski, who developed a reputation for developing and getting the most from his defensive linemen while at Iowa.

by Michael Bruntz

STRENGTH

Moss is an extremely athletic player coming off the end. He has the frame to add weight and his quickness can cause headaches for opposing offensive linemen.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

Moss is still relatively green, and gaining weight and a better understanding of technique will help him grow as a player.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Nebraska, Arizona State, Purdue

TOP 3 SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, Purdue, Arizona State

RECRUITED BY

Ron Brown

KEY NUMBER

10

Points and rebounds Moss averaged as a junior on the basketball court

247SPORTS ANALYST JUSTIN HOPKINS

"Avery is kind of a sleeper. He hasn't been around football as long as some other recruits. I like his speed off the edge and his footwork and overall he's a very high character kid who is going to come in and work hard."

a number of major college programs.

An intriguing defensive end who has played football for just two seasons, Moss has used his size and athleticism to become a disruptive pass rusher at the defensive end position. As a senior, Moss had 59 tackles, five sacks and two pass breakups for Corona Del Sol High School. Despite playing in only five games as a junior because of a broken hand, Moss made 12

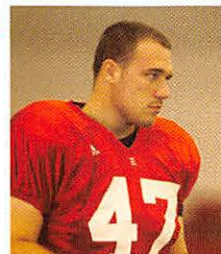
REMINDS US OF Mike Rucker

Moss and Rucker are both freakish athletes and similarly sized players. Moss' football IQ will need to catch up to his athletic ability mirror Rucker.



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE Walker Ashburn

Moss seems like a good candidate for a redshirt season in 2012, but will be in the mix for playing time in 2013.



RANKINGS

NATIONAL

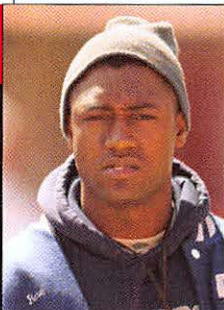
42

WDE

12

ARIZONA

247
RATING
95



Michael Rose

LB

N

6-0 | 225 | ROCKHURST HS, KANSAS CITY, MO

Michael Rose finally signing his letter of

intent with Nebraska has been a long time coming.

Rose was the first commitment of Nebraska's 2012 recruiting class, committing to the Huskers in July 2010. After that point, he became something of a recruiter, establishing relationships with Husker targets like Vincent Valentine, Jordan Diggs and others throughout the recruiting process.

ROCKHURST COACH TONY SEVERINO

"When he first came in, he was almost to the point where you thought he might have been a little bit cocky. But as you get to know him, it's really just a confidence thing. He's a very confident kid, confident in his abilities, but he's more than willing to learn and take instruction."

Rose is one of four linebackers in Nebraska's 2012 class and seems among the likeliest to compete for playing time in his freshman season because of his mix of physical talent and intelligence.

A talented linebacker, Rose made a name for himself at a number of national camps and combines early in his high school career. Rose was selected to play in the Under Armour

All-America Game in January and stood out in the nationally televised game, grabbing an interception and tipping a pass that was intercepted by a teammate. Rose recorded 99 tackles, two interceptions and recovered three fumbles as a senior at Rockhurst, leading the team to a 10-2 record and earning first-team Class 6 all-state pick by the Missouri Coaches Association. Rose is used to winning. He was a leader on the Rockhurst team in 2010 that captured a Missouri state title with a 14-0 record. As

a sophomore, Rose compiled a team-high 95 tackles.

Rose has climbed the 247Sports rankings all season, and ended the year ranked as the seventh-best inside linebacker in the country and No. 138 on the top 247 prospects in the country. Though he doesn't flash

Lavonte David-like speed, Rose is deceptively quick and takes good angles to bring down ball-carriers. At 225 pounds, Rose is the kind of big linebacker that Nebraska will need to compete with run-heavy teams in the Big Ten. With Nebraska in desperate need of linebackers this fall, Rose could see the field as a true freshman if he impresses in fall camp.

by Michael Bruntz

STRENGTH

Rose always seems to have a knack for being around the ball and making plays. He's not the fastest player, but he takes solid angles to get to the ballcarrier.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

Rose is a bit short at 6-foot, but makes up for that on the field in a number of ways.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Nebraska

TOP SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, USC, Iowa, Missouri and Ohio State.

RECRUITED BY

Mike Ekeler, Ross Els, John Papuchis

KEY NUMBER

1 Official visits Rose took during the recruiting process, which also shows his loyalty to the program.

REMINDS US OF Phillip Dillard

Rose and Dillard are both on the shorter side, but both get the most out of their athletic ability and play with high motors.



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE Trevor Roach

Freshman linebackers don't often see the field in Bo Pelini defenses, but if Rose adjusts to the speed of the game, he could be competing for backup snaps behind Will Compton and others.



RANKINGS

138
NATIONAL

08
ILB

003
MISSOURI

247
RATING
93



Mohammed Seisay DB

6-2 | 200 | EASTERN ARIZONA CC, THATCHER, AZ



It's been a long road for Mohammed Seisay

to get to Lincoln.

After playing one season at Memphis, Seisay decided to transfer to Eastern Arizona College with the hope of impressing scouts and earning a scholarship from a BCS program.

Seisay has been a difference maker at each school he has played for. At Memphis, he made 39 tackles, two intercep-

ing Bo Pelini to Arizona during Nebraska's off-week in October to visit Seisay. Also credit secondary coach Corey Raymond for developing a fast rapport with the talented defensive back. Seisay got down to a final two of Nebraska and Arkansas and picked the Huskers in late December, announcing his decision publicly via his Twitter and Facebook pages. He arrived in January and will participate in spring drills beginning in March.

That's a good thing for

Nebraska, which suffered through a season of inconsistent secondary play. The Nebraska coaching staff knew it needed to get help immediately in the defensive backfield and should get that in Seisay. At

Eastern Arizona he

showed the ability to fight with receivers when the ball is in the air, a trait that should endear him to Nebraska's coaches who watched their corners get out-jumped for passes several times in 2011. With Nebraska losing Alfonzo Dennard, Seisay will need to be ready to play next fall and give the defense its next lockdown corner to follow in the footsteps of Dennard and Prince Amukamara.

by Michael Bruntz

STRENGTH

A physical defender, Seisay goes up and fights for the ball when it's in the air. He also has the speed and elusiveness to make a play after he intercepts the ball.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

How quickly can Seisay adapt to FBS football? Nebraska needs him now. Will he be ready?

OFFICIAL VISITS

Nebraska, Indiana, Mississippi, Arkansas

TOP 3 SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, Arkansas, Mississippi

RECRUITED BY

Corey Raymond

KEY NUMBER

16

The national JUCO ranking for Seisay according to 247Sports.

247SPORTS ANALYST J.C. SHURBURTT

"He's a bigger defensive back that can play corner or safety and many who cover the junior college recruiting ranks rave about his ability. Provided he adjusts quickly to the FBS level, he can be an instant impact player at Nebraska."

tions and three pass breakups in 12 games as a freshman, en route to earning Conference USA All-Freshman team honors.

In his only year at Eastern Arizona, Seisay made 22 tackles, grabbed six interceptions and returned two picks for touchdowns. The gamble paid off and he soon had a number of BCS programs jockeying for his services. Nebraska put the full-court press on Seisay, send-

REMINDS US OF Michael Booker

Seisay is a big, physical cornerback who reminds us of the way Booker used to patrol the secondary for the Huskers.



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE Andrew Green

With Alfonzo Dennard gone, an opportunity exists for Seisay to start immediately, and he'll be battling with Green and Ciente Evans among others for that spot.

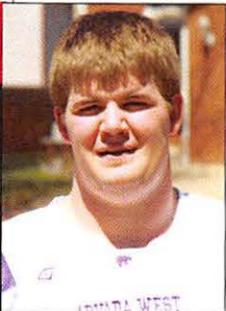


RANKINGS

17

NATIONAL

247
RATING
92



Paul Thurston

OL

N

6-5 | 275 | ARVADA WEST HS, ARVADA, CO

Paul Thurston was one of the earliest commits in

Nebraska's 2012 class, giving his pledge to the Huskers in June, and ended up being the top offensive lineman the Huskers nabbed in this class.

The physical Thurston developed a reputation as a ferocious run blocker, playing tackle for Arvada West High School near Denver. Despite Arvada West going

by the top BCS programs in the country, and visited for Nebraska's spring game, where he was impressed by Nebraska's facilities. He took one more unofficial return trip to Lincoln early in the summer before making his decision shortly thereafter. Thurston developed a close relationship with offensive line coach Barney Cotton during the recruiting process and is the kind of downhill blocker Nebraska covets at guard. Thurston said that Nebraska has also talked

about using him at center, but that he prefers to play guard.

Thurston piled up accolades during his senior season, earning Class 5A first team all-state honors from the

Denver Post, and first team all-conference honors as a junior when he also played on the defensive line.

While in high school, Thurston got a crash course on Nebraska football history and tradition from one of the assistant coaches at Arvada West. Thurston was coached by former Nebraska center Matt Baldwin, who earned First-Team Academic All-Big 12 honors in 1999.

by Michael Bruntz

STRENGTH

An excellent run blocker who gets into the second level of the defense quickly. He has the speed to pull on run plays and should fit in well in the Big Ten.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

Thurston has never played guard, and it will be worth watching how he adapts to the new footwork, and not playing on the outside.

OFFICIAL VISITS

Nebraska

TOP 3 SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, Michigan, Oregon

RECRUITED BY

Barney Cotton

KEY NUMBER

26

Thurston's national ranking among offensive tackles according to 247Sports

REMINDS US OF

Brenden Stai

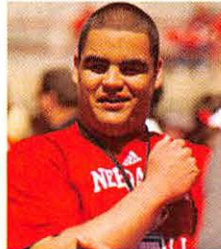
Thurston is tall like Stai was when he played, and both are downhill run blockers who move well for their size.



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE

Ryan Klachko

Thurston has the talent to compete with the other guards on Nebraska's roster. Though a redshirt year is likely, Thurston has the talent and size to be in the mix sooner than later.



RANKINGS

— — —

NATIONAL

26

OT

002

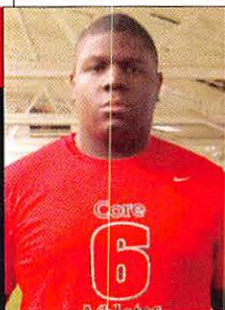
COLORADO

247SPORTS ANALYST JUSTIN HOPKINS

"Paul has solid footwork, good hands and pretty good leverage. I'd like to see a bit more push from him myself, but overall he's a very good looking prospect and a real high character kid."

just 2-8 in his senior season, Thurston showed the skills and toughness that initially attracted Nebraska. The son of a minister, who was home-schooled throughout his childhood, Thurston is a high-character kid, but has a nasty streak on the field. Thurston was recruited by most programs to play tackle, but will likely end up playing in the interior line for Nebraska at either guard or center.

He was heavily recruited



Vincent Valentine DT

6-3 | 300 | EDWARDSVILLE HS, EDWARDSVILLE, ILL



After a season in the Big Ten,

Nebraska learned that depth at defensive tackle is a luxury and focused its recruiting attention accordingly.

The Huskers got their big run-stopper in Vincent Valentine, who chose the Huskers in a signing day press conference. A run-stopping force in the middle of the defensive line,

clean to make tackles -- something Nebraska struggled with at times in 2011. Valentine struck a quick relationship with former defensive line coach John Papuchis and has said that Nebraska was long his top program throughout the recruiting process. A three-year starter, Valentine recorded 22 tackles and two sacks as a junior and 29 tackles and two sacks as a sophomore.

Getting a big, true run-stopper like Valentine was atop their list of priorities with this class.

Because of his size, Valentine likes his

chances of cracking the rotation early. He said he knows he'll have to work on building proper footwork and movement to help him at the next level. Valentine was able to rely on his sheer size in high school, but in the Big Ten he'll have to refine his technique and add muscle too. Valentine will benefit from working with Nebraska strength coach James Dobson, and could be a force in the middle as he continues to get stronger and learn Nebraska's two-gap defensive system.

by Michael Bruntz

STRENGTH

Valentine has the size needed to plug running gaps and keep blockers off Nebraska's linebackers. Also blessed with quick feet for his size.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

Valentine has long relied on his size to make plays. Can he refine his technique to become a complete defensive tackle?

OFFICIAL VISITS

Nebraska, Illinois, Florida

TOP 3 SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, Illinois, Florida

RECRUITED BY

John Papuchis

KEY NUMBER

300

Weight on signing day in pounds. He has the size to be disruptive to opponents' run games.

EDWARDSVILLE COACH MATT MARTIN

"You don't see too many kids who can run like he can for his size. He's blessed."

Valentine was a second-team all-state, all-class pick by the Chicago Tribune for his senior season where he recorded 35 tackles, 11 tackles for loss and three sacks. He was also chosen as a first-team Class 7A all-state performer by the Illinois High School Coaches Association and earned first-team All-Southwest Conference honors for two consecutive seasons.

Valentine is deceptively quick for his size and showed that he's the type of player who can fill gaps and keep linebackers

REMINDS US OF Ryon Bingham

Bingham was a strong run stopper in the middle of Nebraska's defensive line who is similarly sized to Valentine.



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE Jay Guy

Valentine could immediately find himself in the mix at defensive tackle and he'll be competing against Guy, another defensive tackle who is adept at eating up blocks.



RANKINGS

NATIONAL

49

DT

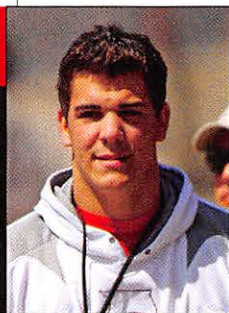
13

ILLINOIS



Jordan Westerkamp WR

6-2 | 195 | MONTINI CATHOLIC, LOMBARD, ILL



247
RATING
90



Though it might not have been a new commitment,

getting Jordan Westerkamp to rebuff the late advances of Notre Dame and sign with the Huskers was a big moment in Nebraska's 2012 recruiting class.

Westerkamp's recruitment likely had Husker fans reaching for the Roloids. He committed to Nebraska in May, but after his record-setting senior season, drew the attention of Notre Dame, and visited South Bend

receivers in the past two recruiting classes and added maybe the best in Westerkamp, who finished his senior season with 90 catches for 1,695 yards and 29 touchdowns even as teams created new schemes to try and stop the talented wideout. He had arguably his finest game in the Illinois 5A state finals, hauling in 12 passes for 353 yards and five touchdowns, including a 94-yard catch that sparked Montini to a 70-45 victory. Westerkamp finished his career as Illinois' all-time career leader in catches (235) receiving yards (4,618) and touchdowns (68).

The accolades poured in for Westerkamp, who was chosen as a first-team All-American by USA Today, and the Illinois Player of the Year by the Chicago Tribune. The impressive senior season followed a junior campaign that launched him on the radar of most division I programs. Westerkamp reeled in 89 passes for 1,631 yards and 23 touch-

downs while helping Montini Catholic to a 5A state championship. He also helped Montini to a state title as a sophomore.

Westerkamp impressed at the Semper Fidelis Marine All-American Bowl in Arizona, running hard after catches and showing the ability to make tough catches in traffic.

by Michael Bruntz

STRENGTH

Westerkamp possesses excellent hands, but it's his ability to make a play after he catches the ball that makes him so dangerous.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

How will Westerkamp adjust to Tim Beck's offense, which gives the wide receiver more say over the route he runs?

OFFICIAL VISITS

Nebraska, Notre Dame

TOP 3 SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, Notre Dame

RECRUITED BY

Rich Fisher and John Garrison

KEY NUMBER

5 Touchdowns Westerkamp caught in the Illinois 5A championship game in 2011

MONTINI COACH CHRIS ANDRIANO

"He's a tough, tough, kid. He likes to block. He enjoys blocking. And that's an art you don't see a lot of receivers ever acquire. This kid is as complete a football player at that position as I've ever seen. And a nice kid. A good friend. He's got a great sense of humor, people like to be around him. He's not cocky, he's humble. His parents have done a great job."

in mid-December. Westerkamp ultimately decided to stick with the Huskers after a full-court press from wide receivers coach Rich Fisher and the rest of the Nebraska coaching staff, and brings prep credentials as a wide receiver that have been a rarity in Lincoln.

Nebraska has stockpiled an impressive group of young

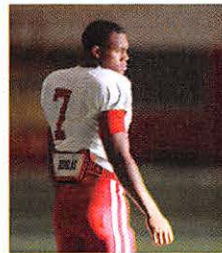
REMINDS US OF Nate Swift

Westerkamp and Swift have reliable hands, but it's what Westerkamp does after he catches the ball that sets him apart.



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE Tæariq Allen

Allen was the toast of the scout team offense in 2011 and will be battling for snaps this fall with Westerkamp, who will bring a polished game to Lincoln.



RANKINGS

— — —

NATIONAL

46

WR

007

ILLINOIS



Corey Whitaker

OL



6-5 | 270 | VISTA MURRIETA, MURRIETA, CA

Nebraska may have found a sleeper in

California offensive lineman Corey Whitaker.

Despite residing in the backyard of numerous Division I football programs, Whitaker chose the Huskers after a January visit and became the second offensive lineman in the 2012 class. Like offensive lineman Paul Thurston, Whitaker

All-CIF and All-Valley first-team selection for the powerful program near San Diego. Whitaker played guard in just one game as a sophomore before switching back to tackle, though he was used to being covered in Murrieta's unbalanced sets, so the move inside won't be too shocking.

Though he is slightly undersized at 270 pounds, with a season to put on weight and learn the guard position, Whitaker could be a guy who ends up

being a difference-maker for Nebraska down the road.

Oregon was one BCS program who was trying to get in on Whitaker late, but he formed a

quick bond with the Nebraska coaching staff on his visit to Lincoln in January. He comes from a tradition-rich program and knows what it takes to win and be successful.

As a senior, Whitaker helped Vista Murrieta's offense average 236 rushing yards per game and 37 points per game en route to a 10-4 record. He helped produce similar results as a junior as Vista Murrieta ran for more than 200 yards per game and averaged nearly 40 points per game.

by Michael Bruntz

STRENGTH

Whitaker possesses quick feet and plays with a high motor on the field. He finishes blocks and has a nasty streak that allows him to play bigger than his 270 pounds.

POTENTIAL WEAKNESS

Changing positions is never easy. How will Whitaker adjust to playing guard or center at Nebraska?

OFFICIAL VISITS

Nebraska, Nevada, San Jose State

TOP 3 SCHOOLS CONSIDERED

Nebraska, Oregon, Nevada

RECRUITED BY

John Garrison

KEY NUMBER

30

Pounds Whitaker gained between his junior and senior seasons

"He's a nasty football player. He plays the game the way the game should be played. He'll fit in just fine at Nebraska."

played tackle in high school, but will begin his Nebraska career at either guard spot.

Why did Whitaker fly under the radar of many programs? For one, because of his size.

A three-year starter for Vista Murrieta High School, Whitaker played as a junior at just 240 pounds before adding 30 pounds for his senior season. A stalwart at right tackle for Vista Murrieta, Whitaker plays with an aggressiveness and motor that jumps off his highlight tape. A run blocking specialist, Whitaker was a two-time

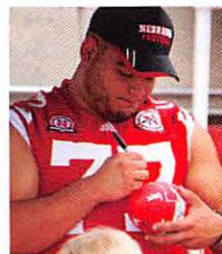
REMINDS US OF Ricky Henry

Whitaker's motor jumps off his highlight tape A finishing blocks and moving quickly down the field. That same motor is what made Henry a bear on the field.



HE MIGHT CHALLENGE Ryan Klachko

Whitaker will likely redshirt in 2012, but his motor will stand out to coaches after he's added strength and size in 2012.



RANKINGS

NATIONAL

92

OT

108

ILLINOIS

Hundreds of Husker Items. **One Place.**



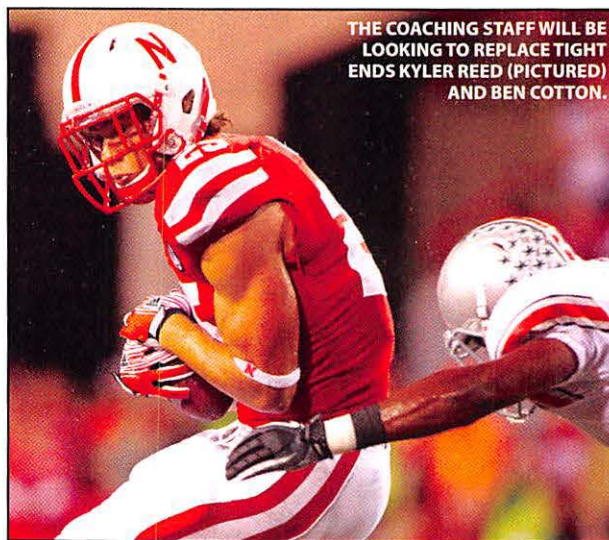
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BY MIKE SCHAEFER
RECRUITING EDITOR,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Jump start for 2013

Nebraska coaches get an early start on 2013 class with commitment from Tre'vell Dixon



THE COACHING STAFF WILL BE LOOKING TO REPLACE TIGHT ENDS KYLER REED (PICTURED) AND BEN COTTON.

Tre'vell Dixon became the first member of Nebraska's 2013 recruiting class this winter. The West St. Mary's product from Baldwin, La., committed to the Huskers to play defensive back. Dixon starred as a quarterback for West St. Mary's this past season, but the Nebraska staff likes his athleticism enough to move him to corner.

And the athlete said he looks forward to playing cornerback.

"I can see everything, and I like to be able to see everything, so I feel pretty comfortable with playing defensive back," he said.

Dixon plans to play both ways his senior season in high school. He said there's still a lot of growth for him at the cornerback position.

"I need to get better at my backpedaling," he said. "I've

been working on it on the side. I haven't done a lot of cornerback drills, but I've been working on it a lot in the off-season. I've been practicing."

It also doesn't hurt that his coach at West St. Mary's — Ryan Antoine — played for his potential coach in Husker assistant Corey Raymond. The Nebraska assistant coached Antoine in high school in New Iberia, La.

Dixon plans to visit Lincoln for the Feb. 18 Junior Day. Dixon has lived in Iowa, so he's familiar with the Midwest. He's hoping to make sure that he found a place where he'll be comfortable.

"I want to meet some of the players," he said. "It's far away from home so I have to be sure that I like it."

Nebraska's 2013 class will take a different shape than the

2012 class. The Huskers only took 17 players in the 2012 class, but because of class sizes, Nebraska can expect a bump in that number this season.

On the offensive side of the ball Nebraska will need to make tight end a focal point. Ben Cotton and Kyler Reed are seniors and the depth behind those long-time starters is relatively unknown. Compounding things is the fact Nebraska doesn't even have a player similar to Kyler Reed's skill set currently on the roster. In-state players Sam Cotton (2012) and David Sutton (2011) were added and figure to be strong additions to the blocking game, but the Huskers missed on a few receiving threats in Brent Wilkerson, Nate Iese and Keoni Bush-Loo.

The Huskers haven't wasted any time targeting tight ends. Several prospects such as Trent Gow, Jacob Matuska and Jon Wisnieski already have offers in hand. Look for the Huskers to try to take two tight ends in the 2013 class.

Another offensive area to watch early is wide receiver. Nebraska needs to add two bodies to the mix. Even though the position group is among the most exciting with Taariq Allen, Kenny Bell, Quincy Enunwa, Tim Marlowe, Jamal Turner and Jordan Westerkamp, Nebraska has to continually add

to the depth at the position if it wants to open up things in the passing game.

Offers have gone out to some impressive receivers, including 4-star standout Laquon Treadwell, Jordan Cunningham, Demorea Stringfellow and Rob Wheelwright.

Quarterback is a key position in any recruiting class. Nebraska will add at least one quarterback and might even take a second to add depth in 2013. Taylor Martinez will be a senior in the fall of 2013, Brion Carnes a redshirted junior and Tommy Armstrong is likely to be a redshirted freshman.

Nebraska continues to court prospects that can run the spread offense. However, the building of the receiving corps does indicate Nebraska plans to utilize a passing attack as well.

Several 2013 quarterbacks already have offers in hand, and Nebraska has expressed interest in a few others as well. Quarterback recruiting is different than recruiting at most positions as teams try to lock up a signal-caller before the fall season begins.

The Huskers have offers out to JT Barrett, Brayden Scott and Malik Zaire. Nebraska also has interest in prospects such as Boeving Brown and Damion Terry.

The offensive line also has several needs, specifically at

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tackle. Nebraska didn't take a tackle in the 2012 class. The Huskers will likely take three or four offensive linemen in 2013.

Defensively, Nebraska has needs at defensive back. In addition to Dixon, the Huskers will likely take a couple more cornerbacks. Nebraska needs to go out and find some more defensive backs to help compete at the position. Raymond said Nebraska needs to get athletically better at the position.

The Huskers also have a need at safety. Nebraska has several safeties that

will be playing their final season. Courtney Osborne, P.J. Smith and Damion Stafford are all seniors this year.

The Huskers also have Corey Cooper, who got a start at cornerback, and Harvey Jackson in the background.

Don't be surprised in Nebraska adds a junior college defensive back again this year.

Defensive line is also going to be stressed again in this class. Nebraska has several veterans at the defensive end position with seniors Joe Carter, Cameron Meredith and

Eric Martin. All three players figure to be in Nebraska's 2012 rotation and while there is depth behind these guys, they are relative unknowns at this point.

The Huskers will have to figure out what they'll get from players such as Walker Ashburn, Donovan Vestal and Tobi Okuyemi. These three will all be sophomores next season, but haven't yet shown enough to break through onto the two-deeps. Once Nebraska knows what it has from those guys and incoming freshmen

like Greg McMullen and Avery Moss, it'll better determine its needs at the position.

Nebraska beefed up its defensive tackle position with the additions of Aaron Curry and Vincent Valentine. The two defensive tackles join an already steady position group that has just one senior, Baker Steinkuhler, and lots of young depth.

Much like defensive end, Nebraska will use the spring to determine what it actually has at the position. Guys such as Thad Randle and Chase Rome proved to

be capable players last year, but questions remain with Jay Guy, Todd Peat, Jr. and Kevin Williams. The Huskers will need to add at least one defensive tackle in 2013.

The Huskers will add a few more linebackers after taking four in the 2012 class. The coaching staff continues to try to sort out depth issues after missing on several prospects in 2008 and 2009.

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Toughness, consistency leading to wins

Triple-overtime win puts the Huskers atop of the Big Ten standings | BRIAN ROSENTHAL

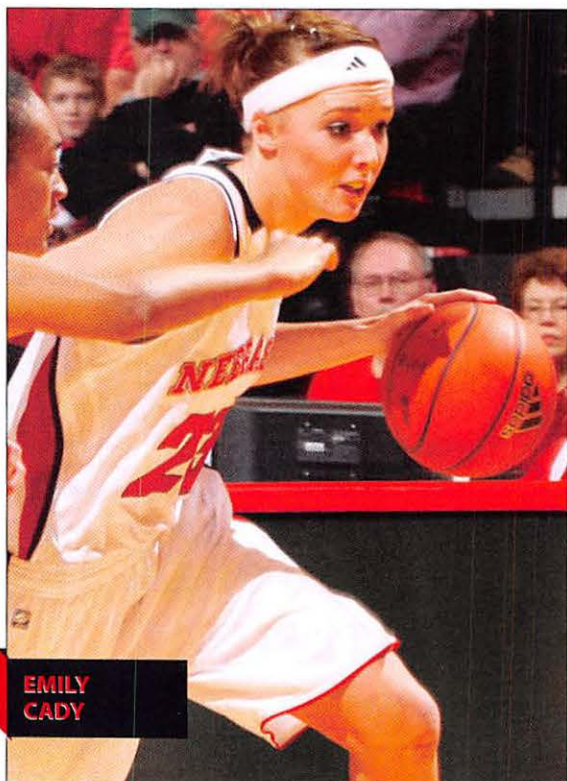


PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

EMILY CADY DOESN'T LIKE LOSING. IN FACT, SHE DESPIES IT. EVEN IF SHE'S COMPETING IN A SIMPLE WORD-PLAYING GAME.

"Me and my friends were playing Catch Phrase the other day, and my team lost, and I was so mad the rest of the night," Cady said. "It ruined my night."

Cady's intolerance for losing may stem from the fact she's rarely experienced it. She ended her high school basketball career at Seward with 75 consecutive victories and three straight Nebraska Class B state championships.

So naturally, after her Nebraska women's basketball team lost its first game this season after an 8-0 start, Cady was upset.

"It was kind of depressing. I'm not going to lie," said Cady, a 6-foot-2 freshman forward. "We were all on the bus and sad and disappointed, but we came back for practice the next day and we were ready to go for the next game."

That attitude, more than

anything, may explain Nebraska's surprising surge toward the top of the Big Ten Conference standings.

At least, it's the best explanation you'll hear from coach Connie Yori. She's repeatedly said she doesn't know how Nebraska is back in the Top 25 and winning games that, quite frankly, the Huskers shouldn't be.

"Really, I'm fascinated by it," said Yori, in her 10th season with Nebraska. "I've said this a few times: Of all the teams that I've coached ... I've had a lot of teams over the years who've done a lot of things right, but haven't always won nearly as many games as what we're winning right now."

Nebraska, on the verge of its fourth 20-win season in the last six years, won eight of its first 10 conference games in its first season in the Big Ten. The Huskers won at preseason league-favorite Penn State. They won at Iowa, the team picked to finish third. They won a dramatic three-overtime game at Purdue, forging a first-place tie with the Boilermakers atop the Big Ten standings in early February.

Cady's buzzer-beating

FRESHMEN, FRESHMEN DON'T BE SHY

Nebraska's impressive record is even more remarkable when considering the amount of freshmen contributions.

Midway through the conference season, Nebraska was leading the Big Ten in number of freshmen minutes played – 49 percent of the team's total minutes were logged by freshmen. Combined, they were averaging 28.5 points and 18 rebounds.

"We feel like our coach and our team has a lot of faith in us," said Cady, one of two true freshmen in the starting lineup. "She plays almost everyone on the bench. It just makes us more confident because we think the coach has faith in us, that we can do what we need to do to finish the game."

The Big Ten team with the fewest freshmen minutes? Purdue (3.1 percent), a team the Huskers defeated in triple overtime on the road.

HOOPER ON WATCH LIST

Sophomore forward Jordan Hooper is on the watch list for the Wade Trophy, presented annually to the nation's most outstanding NCAA Division I women's basketball player, both on and off the court.

Hooper is leading the Big Ten in scoring and ranks second in rebounds. She's also on track to become the first sophomore in Nebraska history to score 1,000 career points.

Hooper is among six sophomores on the 33-player Wade Trophy watch list, which will be trimmed to 12 finalists in mid-March.

MOORE'S MILESTONE

Junior Lindsey Moore became the 27th player in Nebraska history to score 1,000 career points when scored 26 in the Huskers' 93-89 triple-overtime win at No. 15 Purdue on Feb. 2.

Moore's 27-foot shot from the left wing in the third overtime gave NU a two-possession lead and pushed her to 1,001 career points. She reached the mark in her 87th career game and could move into Nebraska's career top 20 scoring chart by the end of the regular season.

11-12 Women's Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/SCORE
OCT. 30	PITTSBURG ST (EXH)	DEVANEY CENTER	86-55 (W)
NOV. 6	NEB-KEARNEY (EXH)	DEVANEY CENTER	85-55 (W)
NOV. 12	ARK-PINE BLUFF	DEVANEY CENTER	95-43 (W)
NOV. 15	MISS. VALLEY STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	99-53 (W)
NOV. 18	#23 USC	DEVANEY CENTER	68-50 (W)
NOV. 21	SAVANNAH STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	70-50 (W)
NOV. 25	FLORIDA A&M	TALLAHASSEE, FL	72-64 (W)
NOV. 27	#24 FLORIDA STATE	TALLAHASSEE, FL	66-63 (W)
NOV. 30	GEORGIA TECH	ATLANTA, GA	57-73 (L)
DEC. 4	UT-PAN AMERICAN	DEVANEY CENTER	65-27 (W)
DEC. 8	CREIGHTON	DEVANEY CENTER	66-55 (W)
DEC. 10	N. ARIZONA	FLAGSTAFF, AZ	97-88 (W)
DEC. 18	VERMONT	DEVANEY CENTER	94-41 (W)
DEC. 21	SOUTH DAKOTA ST	DEVANEY CENTER	80-71 (W)
DEC. 30	*PENN STATE	UNIV. PARK, PA	71-63 (W)
JAN. 5	*INDIANA	DEVANEY CENTER	62-48 (W)
JAN. 8	*IOWA	IOWA CITY, IA	77-72 (W)
JAN. 12	*WISCONSIN	MADISON, WIS	75-69 (W)
JAN. 15	*PENN STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	73-93 (L)
JAN. 19	*OHIO STATE	COLUMBUS, OH	68-82 (L)
JAN. 22	*MINNESOTA	DEVANEY CENTER	64-49 (W)
JAN. 26	*IOWA	DEVANEY CENTER	60-53 (W)
JAN. 29	*ILLINOIS	CHAMPAIGN, ILL	67-47 (W)
FEB. 2	*PURDUE	W. LAFAYETTE, IND	93-89 (W)
FEB. 9	*MICHIGAN	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 PM
FEB. 13	*MINNESOTA	MINNEAPOLIS, MN	6:30 PM
FEB. 16	*NORTHWESTERN	DEVANEY CENTER	7:05 PM
FEB. 19	*WISCONSIN	DEVANEY CENTER	1 PM
FEB. 23	*MICHIGAN STATE	EAST LANSING, MI	5 OR 7
FEB. 26	*OHIO STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	11, 1 OR 3
MAR. 1-4	BIG TEN TOURNAMENT	INDIANAPOLIS, IND.	

* BIG TEN MATCH;

ALL TIMES CENTRAL, DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

CONNIE YORI



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

three-pointer sent the game to the third overtime.

"We don't always do a lot of things right," Yori said, "but we somehow find a way to win in a different manner each game."

Nebraska, coming off a losing season and fielding a team loaded with freshmen and sophomores, wasn't supposed to win like this.

But these Huskers have found ways to win, partly because they're used to winning. Cady, sophomore forward Jordan Hooper and junior guard Lindsay Moore all won state championships in high school.

"Having winners ... we've got a lot of kids who have won and played on a lot of winning teams," Yori said. "I think you develop toughness when you win. You know how to win and you continue to compete to win."

Moore and senior guard Kaitlyn Burke are also among four current players who played on the 2009-10

Nebraska team that started 32-0, won the Big 12 Conference and earned a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

"We're a team that's never going to give up. Doesn't matter what the score says, we're going to fight no matter what," Burke said. "That's something that I think is similar to the team two years ago."

The victory at Purdue was Nebraska's second road overtime victory (also at Northern Arizona), marking the first time the Huskers have won two road overtime games in one season. The Huskers have won eight road games, including two against ranked teams.

"I think we have good toughness," Yori said. "I think we have competitive kids who have shown that when the game's on the line, they can compete hard. We've been able to win a lot of those close games because of that."

Huskers troubles at home reach record pace

Nebraska ^{has} ~~have~~ been unable to protect home court in Big Ten conference play | BRIAN ROSENTHAL



DOC SADLER

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

THIS ISN'T THE WAY DOC SADLER ENVISIONED HIS SIXTH SEASON AS NEBRASKA'S BASKETBALL COACH UNFOLDING.

This isn't the way Doc Sadler envisioned his sixth season as Nebraska's basketball coach unfolding.

In October, Sadler proclaimed this to be his best Husker team. He had reasons to believe that, too. Nebraska lost only one starter from last

year's 19-win team, and was replacing him with a veteran point guard, Bo Spencer, a transfer who'd started two seasons at LSU.

Sadler had four other seniors, too – two of whom were beginning their fifth years in the program. Experience

wouldn't be an issue.

But it's February, and Nebraska appears destined for its second losing record in the last three seasons. The Huskers will also be battling to stay out of last place in the Big Ten Conference standings in their inaugural season in the league.

Sadler, who's gone out of his way to credit his team's effort, says he's not losing hope.

"I like our basketball team, and I believe in them," he said. "I think if we get some luck and if we take each day as it comes, I think there's some good things that can happen to this team. I really do. I believe that.

"I know it doesn't look like that outside this office or maybe outside this building, but I can't control those things."

Nebraska, which has played all season without senior center Andre Almeida, will also be without junior center Jorge Brian Diaz for the rest of the season. Diaz didn't suit for a Feb. 5 loss to Minnesota

because of chronic foot pain, at which point Sadler said it would be a "long shot" to see Diaz again this season.

Sadler said the lack of a low-post presence – Nebraska averages 11 fewer points and seven fewer rebounds without Diaz – has had an enormous impact on the offense. The Huskers have had point totals in the 40s in five Big Ten games, three of which Diaz did not play.

"People are just switching everything, and we don't have any advantage (without a low-post presence)," Sadler said. "We've got to find a way to continue to get the basketball down low and make something positive happen. Not necessarily a basket, but we've got to get the ball inside."

Nebraska's defense has suffered, too, although Sadler said he's not been disappointed with his team's effort on that end of the court – even after games such as Michigan, when the Wolverines shot 76.2 percent (16-of-21) over the second half of a 62-46 victory in Lincoln.

That was the Huskers' seventh home loss of the season, the team's most season losses in the 36-year-old Devaney Sports Center, and the most home losses since the 1962-63 team went 4-9.

What's more discouraging is the margin of defeat at home. Before this season, nine Nebraska teams had lost six home games since 1962-63. Of those nine teams, the largest home margin of defeat in one season was 11.1 points.

11-12 Men's Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/SCORE
NOV. 7	DOANE (EXH)	DEVANEY CENTER	76-54 (W)
NOV. 11	SOUTH DAKOTA	DEVANEY CENTER	65-48 (W)
NOV. 14	USC	AT LOS ANGELES, CA	64-61 OT (W)
NOV. 20	RHODE ISLAND	DEVANEY CENTER	83-63 (W)
NOV. 23	OREGON	DEVANEY CENTER	76-83 (L)
NOV. 26	SOUTH DAKOTA ST	DEVANEY CENTER	76-64 (W)
NOV. 30	WAKE FOREST	DEVANEY CENTER	53-55 (W)
DEC. 4	CREIGHTON	AT OMAHA, NEB.	66-76 (L)
DEC. 7	FL. GULF COAST	DEVANEY CENTER	51-50 (W)
DEC. 10	TCU	AT FORTH WORTH	69-57 (W)
DEC. 17	ALCORN STATE	DEVANEY CENTER	60-46 (W)
DEC. 20	CENTRAL MICH	DEVANEY CENTER	72-69 (W)
DEC. 27	WISCONSIN*	DEVANEY CENTER	40-64 (L)
DEC. 31	MICHIGAN STATE*	DEVANEY CENTER	55-68 (L)
JAN. 3	OHIO STATE*	AT COLUMBUS, OHIO	40-71 (L)
JAN. 7	ILLINOIS*	AT CHAMPAIGN, ILL.	54-59 (L)
JAN. 11	PENN STATE*	DEVANEY CENTER	70-58 (W)
JAN. 15	WISCONSIN*	AT MADISON, WISC.	45-50 (L)
JAN. 18	INDIANA*	DEVANEY CENTER	70-69 (W)
JAN. 21	OHIO STATE*	DEVANEY CENTER	45-79 (L)
JAN. 26	IOWA*	AT IOWA CITY, IOWA	79-73 (W)
FEB. 2	NORTHWESTERN*	AT EVANSTON, ILL.	74-84 (L)
FEB. 5	MINNESOTA*	DEVANEY CENTER	61-69 (L)
FEB. 8	MICHIGAN*	DEVANEY CENTER	46-62 (L)
FEB. 11	PENN STATE*	AT STATE COLLEGE, PA.	NOON
FEB. 18	ILLINOIS*	DEVANEY CENTER	4 P.M.
FEB. 22	PURDUE*	AT WEST LAFAYETTE, IND.	5:30 P.M.
FEB. 25	MICHIGAN STATE*	AT EAST LANSING, MICH.	7 P.M.
FEB. 29	IOWA*	DEVANEY CENTER	8 P.M.
MAR. 3	MINNESOTA*	AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.	11:30 A.M.
MAR. 8-11	BIG TEN TOURNAMENT	INDIANAPOLIS, IND.	

* BIG TEN MATCH;

ALL TIMES CENTRAL, DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

This Nebraska team is losing home games by an average margin of 14.8 points, a mark bolstered by a 34-point loss to Ohio State – the worst home loss in school history.

But Sadler said he's not paid attention to fans' rumblings.

"I don't know what's going on. I don't care," Sadler said.

"My concerns, believe it or not, are big enough to get this basketball team playing good. That's my only concern.

"Anything else I can't control, I don't care to control. I'm not stupid. I know wins and losses, it's always good to have a lot more wins than it is losses. We need to win some basketball games."

RICHARDSON'S CAREER MARK

For four years, Sadler has been trying to get senior guard Brandon Richardson to shoot the basketball more often.

Richardson proved why in a Jan. 26 victory over Iowa, when he scored a career-high 25 points on 9-of-10 shooting, including 6-of-7 on 3-pointers.

"After I made a few, every time I threw it up, I felt like I was going to make it," Richardson said. "Luckily, I did."

Richardson had been averaging 6.5 points, and had made a combined three field goals over Nebraska's previous four games.

DIAZ HURTING

Sadler isn't giving up on finding proper medical help for Diaz, who's seen a foot

specialist in North Carolina, and has had a visit from a doctor in Kansas City.

Sadler said he's called trainers he knows with the Houston Rockets and Dallas Mavericks, hoping they can help him get in touch with some of the country's best foot specialists.

"We've got to keep trying," Sadler said.

Diaz, who missed the final two games of non-conference play and the first three games of Big Ten play, had been averaging 23 minutes, 5.7 points and 3.6 rebounds in seven games after returning.

"His feet are just killing him," Sadler said. "He's tried. He's tried hard. But emotionally right now, he's frustrated, he's hurt -- all of the things that you would expect."

FRESHMAN TIME

Nebraska's three scholarship freshmen – Corey Hilliard, Josiah Moore and David Rivers – went through an eight-game stretch in Big Ten Conference play where they combined for only 21 minutes. Moore and Rivers played in only one game in that stretch, in the late minutes of a lopsided home loss to Ohio State.

Before that stretch, the trio had played significant minutes in three Big Ten games. In fact, too many minutes for Sadler's liking. He said they weren't ready for that many minutes that soon into conference play.

But Sadler said he'll likely turn to the freshmen more often in the final games of the season, to help provide depth.

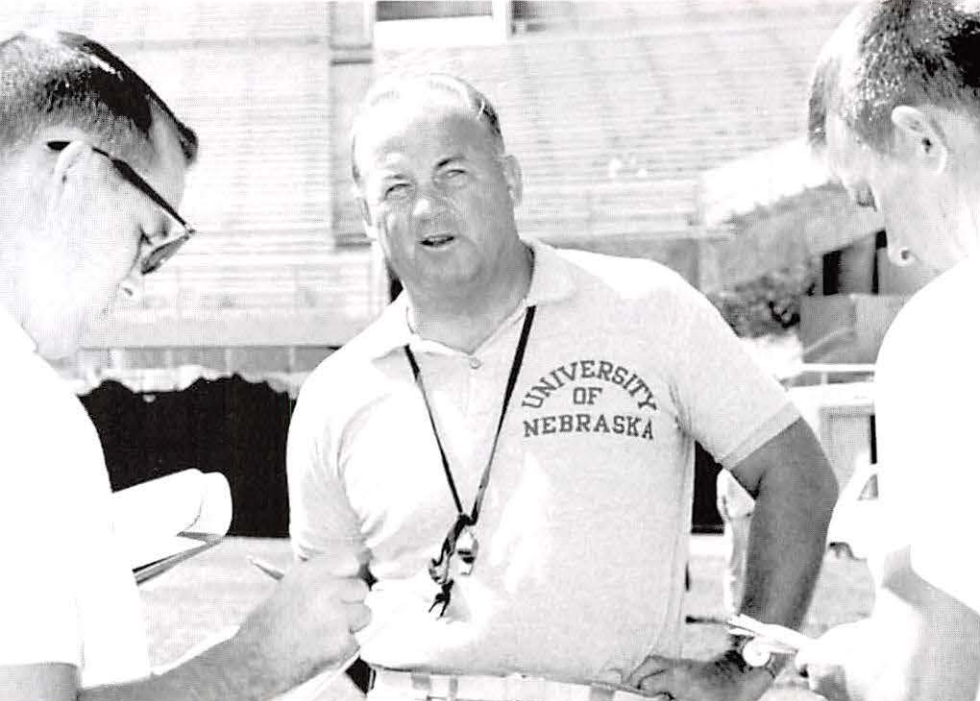
FROM THE ARCHIVES

ANONYMOUS NO MORE

Mike Fullman (#12) wasn't included in the 1995 Nebraska football media guide. He arrived without fanfare, beginning his college career in his home state of New Jersey, at Rutgers, where he redshirted and then played one season. He left at mid-term of his second year there and enrolled at Southeast Community College in Lincoln, before transferring to Nebraska and sitting out a season. The 5-foot-7, 170-pound Fullman was among the Huskers' fastest players, running an electronic 4.53 in the 40-yard dash. He was a back-up at corner his two seasons at Nebraska but the No. 1 punt returner, ranking first in the Big Eight (and No. 10 nationally) in 1995 and second in the Big 12 in 1996. He returned 42 punts over the two seasons, taking two back for touchdowns, a 79-yarder against Kansas State in 1995 and a 62-yarder against Michigan State in 1996. He also intercepted two passes during the 1995 national championship season, returning one 86 yards for a touchdown against Kansas.







GAMES REMEMBERED

Playing through pain

Huskers, Sooners nearly postponed after assassination of President John F. Kennedy

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

was assassinated in Dallas the previous day, calling into serious question whether the Big Eight championship showdown between the No. 10-ranked Huskers and No. 6 Oklahoma would be played. The decision wasn't made until late Friday night.

The initial decision was that the game would be played. The NCAA left schools to decide. But Nebraska Gov. Frank Morrison wanted the game postponed, causing the Nebraska Board of Regents to reconsider, with input from coaches Bob Devaney and Bud Wilkinson as well as Husker Athletic

Director Tippy Dye and Big Eight Commissioner Wayne Duke, who polled conference faculty reps.

Since the winner of the game would represent the conference in the Orange Bowl, bowl officials favored playing. Oklahoma still had a game remaining the next Saturday, making postponement difficult if not impossible. Plus, the bowl wanted to begin publicizing the New Year's Day match-up.

In addition, the game was a sellout, with fans from both teams having traveled to Lincoln.

The game didn't match the hype. The Husker defense stifled Oklahoma's running attack, which

ranked second nationally (Nebraska ranked first), and Nebraska capitalized on Sooner mistakes, including 5-of-7 fumbles lost, to take a 29-7 lead with 5:43 remaining.

The Huskers' final two touchdowns were set up by pass interceptions.

Oklahoma took advantage of a pair of Nebraska fumbles in the closing minutes to make the score more respectable. The Sooners scored with 1:59 remaining and then again with 42 seconds left before Nebraska fans ran onto the field and brought down the goal posts.

Oklahoma was held to 98 yards rushing.

NEBRASKA 29, OKLAHOMA 20

Nov. 23, 1963 • Memorial Stadium

Oklahoma	0	0	0	20	-	20
Nebraska	3	0	7	19	-	29

(N) Dave Theisen 27 field goal
 (N) Rudy Johnson 10 run (Theisen kick)
 (N) Dennis Claridge 1 run (Theisen kick)
 (O) John Flynn 22 pass Ron Fletcher (George Jarman kick)
 (N) Kent McCloughan 2 run (kick failed)
 (N) Fred Duda 1 run (kick failed)
 (O) Wes Skidgel 27 run (Jarman kick)
 (O) Skidgel 26 pass Tommy Pannell (pass failed)

Attendance: 38,362

DO YOU REMEMBER?

► Classes were cancelled at Nebraska on Monday and Tuesday of the next week in celebration of the victory and Orange Bowl bid. The cancellation was only the fourth at Nebraska for such a celebration since the early 1920s.

► The game was televised in Lincoln and Grand Island, Neb., by Lincoln station KOLN and offered on closed-circuit in Omaha and Oklahoma City. No national networks televised the college football games that were played on Saturday. Many were postponed.

► NFL games were played on Sunday but not televised. The AFL postponed its games.

► Nebraska's No. 10 ranking was its highest in the Associated Press poll since 1940, when the Huskers finished the regular season at No. 7. The AP poll included only 10 teams in 1963, with final rankings at the end of the regular season. Nebraska finished No. 6, despite defeating No. 5 Auburn 13-7 in the Orange Bowl.



OKLAHOMA VS. NEBRASKA
 NOVEMBER 23, 1963 (Grand Island Press) AP/WIDE WORLD

CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

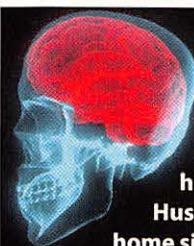
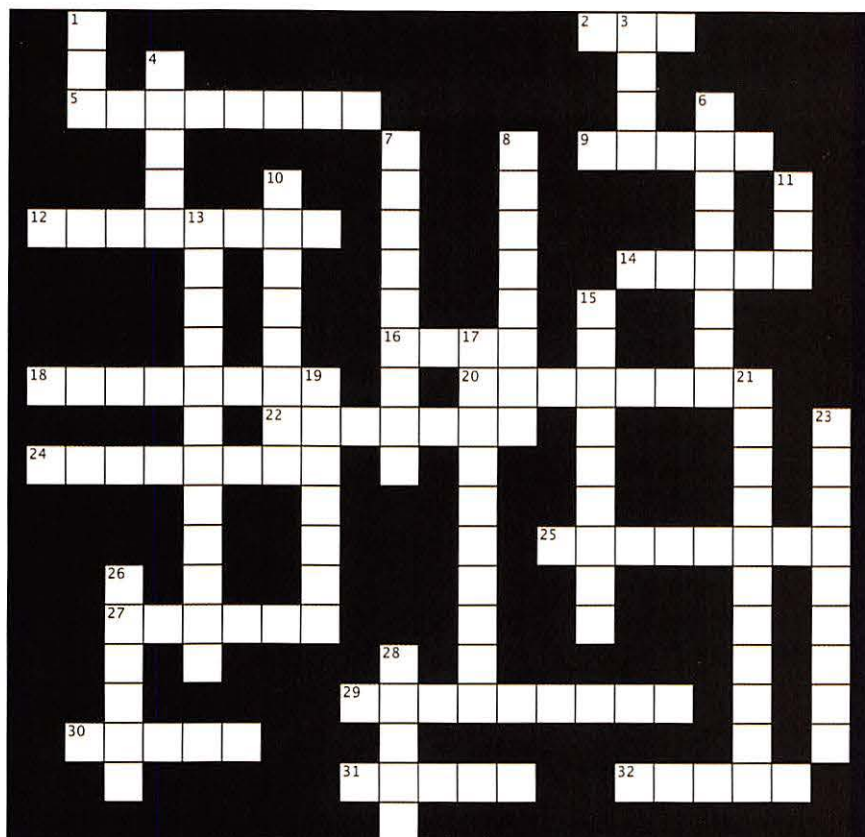
ACROSS

2. 2009 Lombardi Award winner
5. Leader in pass breakups in 2011
9. Leader in sacks in 2011
12. 2012 offensive line recruit from Colorado
14. 2012 running back recruit from Georgia
16. 2012 linebacker recruit from Kansas City
18. Leading scorer in 2011
20. Defensive coordinator
22. 2011 Defensive MVP
24. 2012 junior college linebacker recruit
25. 2011 Offensive MVP
27. Former NU punter, now NU baseball coach
29. 2012 defensive tackle recruit from Illinois
30. Ex-Husker who had 4 tackles in 2012 Senior Bowl
31. Ex-Husker offensive lineman in 2012 NFL Pro Bowl
32. 2012 defensive tackle recruit from Texas

DOWN

1. Recruiting coordinator
3. 2012 non-conference road opponent
4. 2011 Special Teams MVP
6. Will Compton's home state
7. 2012 quarterback recruit from Texas
8. 2011 co-Lifter of the Year
10. Kenny Bell's home state
11. Special teams coordinator
13. Opponent in 2012 opener
15. Former Husker in Super Bowl XLVII
17. April 14 event
19. Ex-Husker who missed 2012 Senior Bowl with injury
21. 1983 Lombardi Award winner
23. Defensive line coach
26. 2012 junior college defensive back recruit
28. 2011 co-Lifter of the Year

Answers will appear in the May issue.



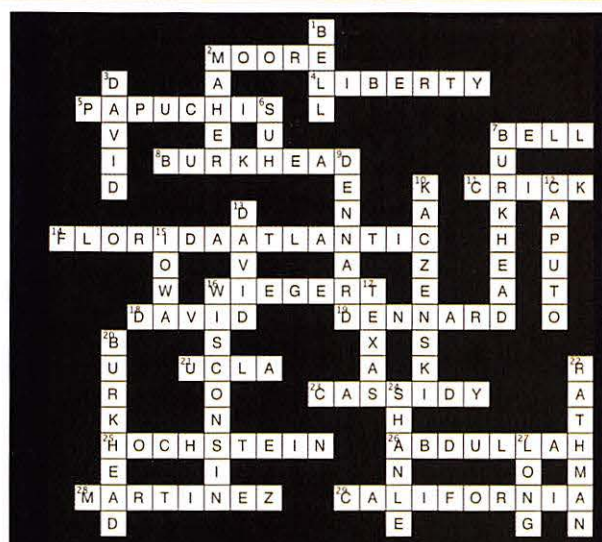
BRAIN BUSTER

Linebacker Zaire Anderson, a member of the 2012 recruiting class, is a transfer from Riverside (Calif.) Community College. But his home is Philadelphia, Pa. He's the first Husker scholarship recruit to call Pennsylvania home since 1999. Can you name the player in that scholarship class from Pennsylvania?

Answer will appear in our next issue

FEBRUARY ANSWER: Texas, 10 - Four Cotton Bowls, three Alamo Bowls, two Sun Bowls and one Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl.

FEBRUARY SOLUTION



Heard could be moving to defense this spring

BY MIKE BABCOCK

THIS MIGHT NOT HAPPEN. But Bo Pelini has said it “possibly” could. And if it does, it’ll be among several interesting storylines during Nebraska’s spring practice.

Braylon Heard could get a look at cornerback.

Heard was among three true freshman running backs behind Rex Burkhead last season, of course, and saw less action than the other two, in part because of injuries. For the record, he played in seven games, carrying 25 times for 114 yards and one touchdown.

Ameer Abdullah finished the season ahead of Heard and Aaron Green, according to running backs coach Ron Brown. And with Burkhead back, there won’t be more opportunity next season.

Heard, who had to sit out a season before becoming eligible, is “such a good athlete that at the end of the day, we want to do right by him and make sure we give him the opportunity to get on the field for the most snaps he possibly can,” Pelini said on letter-of-intent-signing day.

Hence the discussion about his switching positions.

However, “one thing we don’t do is we don’t move somebody without them feeling real comfortable with it,” said Pelini. “Braylon’s a guy that can play multiple positions. He played defensive back and running back in high school. He could be a heck of a wide receiver if he put his mind to it.”

The 5-foot-11, 180-pound Heard earned Division IV All-Ohio honors at cornerback as a junior at Youngstown’s Cardinal Mooney High School. “He’s a real sudden guy,” Pelini said.

That Pelini can put players in position to succeed can be documented. Consider how he used Demorrio Williams when he was defensive coordinator in 2003, how his first spring as head coach, Cody Glenn moved from running back to linebacker and Jared Crick moved from defensive end to defensive tackle, and how the “peso” position was created to accommodate Eric Hagg’s skills.

Oh yes, and how this past season, Stanley Jean-Baptiste, who will be a junior, moved from wide receiver to cornerback, an adjustment that will continue during the spring.



That Pelini can put players in position to succeed can be documented. Consider how he used Demorrio Williams when he was defensive coordinator in 2003...

Competition in the secondary, in general, will be a spring storyline, with starters Alfonzo Dennard and Austin Cassidy having to be replaced and junior college transfer Mohammed Seisay in the mix at cornerback, at least for starters. He also could play safety, according to Pelini.

Statistically, the Huskers dropped markedly in pass efficiency defense and pass defense, and more importantly, in total defense and scoring defense in 2011, so the development of the defense, from back to front, under new coordinator John Papuchis, will be a significant storyline. Lavonte David has to be replaced at linebacker, and the defensive line has a new coach in Rick Kaczinski.

Starting tackles Marcel Jones and Yoshi Hardrick have to be replaced in the offensive line, as does center Mike Caputo. Cole Pensick, Mark Pelini and Ryne Reeves are among those who will compete to succeed Caputo at center, along with Justin Jackson.

“I think Justin has a chance to be pretty good over there,” Pelini said.

Jackson, a walk-on from Roca, Neb., will be a senior. He was moved from defensive tackle to the offensive line last spring but played in the defensive line late in the season because of injuries.

The offensive line could see some position changes, “with some guys as to whether they’ll be on the inside or the outside,” said Pelini. Other than that, as far as changes, “it’s pretty much as is.”

As was the case a year ago, spring practice will be broken up by the university’s spring break. The tentative schedule is for three practices with the first on March 10 and then a break, with practice resuming on March 26 and the spring game on April 14.

Heard could be playing cornerback that day. We’ll see. **N**

You can also read Mike Babcock each week at Huskersonline.com.



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